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FBIS-SOV-88-038 CONTENTS *26 February 1988*

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

SS-12 Launchers in GDR Now Being Withdrawn 1
NATO Spokesman Reacts to Missile Withdrawal 1
Bogachev Condemns West's 'Compensation' Stand 1
Portugalov Responds to FRG General's Letter 2
Public Hearings Held on INF Ratification 2
Comparison of 'Official' Treaty, Press Version 3
IAEA Session Ends, Results Reviewed 3

COMMUNIST RELATIONS

Medvedev Receives Leaders of Bloc Missions *[PRAVDA 25 Feb]* 4
Chnoupek Hosts Dinner for Pact Ministers *[PRAVDA 24 Feb]* 4

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Editorial Hails New Thinking in World Politics *[PRAVDA 25 Feb]* 5
Paper Reviews Foreign Ministry Briefing *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Feb]* 6
Kashlev Interviewed on CSCE Vienna Meeting *[IZVESTIYA 22 Feb]* 7
  Outlines Prospects for Accord 8
More on Meeting of Balkan Foreign Ministers 8
  Shevardnadze Sends Note *[PRAVDA 25 Feb]* 8
  Albanian Minister Speaks 9
  Outcome of Second Day Noted 10
  Conference Concludes 10

United States & Canada

Pentagon Planning New Cruise Missile 11
U.S. Wants Nicaraguan Problems Solved by Force *[Lavrentyev]* 11
FBI Involved in 'Spying' on Library Visitors 11

China

Beijing Embassy Marks Armed Forces Anniversary 12
PRC Envoy Speaks at UN Meeting on Xizang 12
'Foreign-Invested Joint Ventures' in PRC Noted 12
RSFSR Trade Minister on Trade With PRC 12
Gorbachev's Book on Perestroyka Published 12

Northeast Asia

No Tae-u Sworn In as President of South Korea 13
  Police Warn Against Protests 13
'Bold Recommendations' on Human Rights in ROK 14
DPRK Seeks 'Improvement' of Ties With U.S. 14
Fisheries Minister on Japan Salmon Catch *[KYODO]* 14
Correction to Japanese Arms Development Interest 15

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Laos, Thailand End Border Talks in 'Unanimity' 15
Philippines Coalition Seeks U.S. Removal 15

Near East & South Asia

U.S. Officials Cited on Afghan Withdrawal 16
  Shultz Without 'Slightest Doubt' *[Kuznetsov]* 16
  Armacost Statement Criticized *[Kornilov]* 17
Afghan Foreign Ministry Denounces Opposition 18
Official sees Afghan Bloodbath as 'Real Danger' *[AFP]* 18
Divided Loyalities of Afghan, Pakistani Pashtuns 19
Arab States Reported To Support Afghanistan 19
Polyakov on Israeli Visit, Higgins Seizure *[IZVESTIYA 26 Feb]* 20
Reagan Statement on Palestinians Viewed *[Vasilyev]* 20
Supreme Soviet Ratifies Treaty With Syria 21
Reportage on Kuwaiti National Day Celebrations 21
  Envoy Gives TV Address 21
  Official Praises Ties *[Kuwait KUNA]* 21
Bangladesh President Receives Gorbachev Message 22
Tamil 'Guerrillas' Compared to Contras *[AFP]* 22

East Europe

Further on Soviet Missile Withdrawal From GDR 22
  Honecker: Turn for the Better 22
  PZPR: 'Exceptional' Significance 22
  Krolikowski: Real Step *[IZVESTIYA 25 Feb]* 23
Morozov Interviewed on Belgrade Conference *[Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT 22 Feb]* 24
SFRY's Mamula Meets With Yazov in Moscow *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 24
Bulgarian-Soviet Alliance Has 'Deep Roots' *[Akhromeyev in Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA 23 Feb]* ... 24
Dobrynin Meets Bulgarian Parliamentarian *[PRAVDA 24 Feb]* 27
CPCZ's Jakes Views February Victory Jubilee *[PRAVDA 24 Feb]* 27
USSR Leadership Honors CSSR Anniversary *[PRAVDA 25 Feb]* 30
Czechoslovak Culture Exhibit Opens in Moscow *[Prague CTK]* 31
  Talyzin, Others Present 31
  Further on Opening *[PRAVDA 25 Feb]* 31
Vorotnikov, Biryukova Attend CSSR Meeting 31
CPCZ's Dockal Visits Moscow Educational Bodies *[PRAVDA 25 Feb]* 32
Hungarian-Soviet Trade Unions Meet in Moscow *[Budapest MTI]* 32

West Europe

Motives Behind Swedish Sub Sightings Examined *[Okulovskiy]* 32
UK Publishers To Develop Restructuring Yearbook 33
FRG's Kohl Favors Further Arms Control Steps 33
FRG, Swedish Ministers Discuss Disarmament 33
French Foreign Ministry Aide, Zagladin Talk *[PRAVDA 25 Feb]* 34
  Meets Petrovskiy, Rogachev 34
Spanish Communist Party Congress Opens 19 Feb 34
  Central Committee Greetings *[PRAVDA 19 Feb]* 34
  Activities Detailed *[PRAVDA 20 Feb]* 35
  General Secretary Elected 35
  New Leader Interviewed 35
Briefs 36
  UK Businessmen Visit Moscow 36
  Tannery Enterprise With Italy 36

Latin America & Caribbean

Panamanian President Removed From Office 36
  U.S. Involvement Viewed *[Mayorov]* 37
Shevardnadze Meets With Nicaragua's D'Escoto 37
Cuba Exposes U.S. State Department 'Intrigues' 38

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political & Social

- Demonstrations Continue in Azerbaijan, Armenia 39
  - Demichev: Politburo 'Uneasy' *[Baku]* 39
  - Bagirov: No Transfers *[Baku]* 39
  - Kevorkov Dismissal Reported *[Baku]* 40
  - 'Nationalist' Protests in Yerevan *[Tehran TV]* 40
  - Demonstrations Spreading *[AFP]* 40
  - Phone Lines Cut *[Hamburg DPA]* 41
  - Katusev Describes Situation 41
  - Yerevan Persian Describes Incidents 41
  - Aktivs Denounce 'Jews' *[Prague]* 41
  - Armenian Party Aktiv Meets *[Yerevan]* 42
  - Troops Reportedly Flown In *[Hamburg DPA]* 42
  - Gorbachev Message *[Yerevan]* 42
  - Message Arouses 'Indignation' *[AFP]* 43
- Nagorno-Karabakh Economic Growth Reviewed 44
- U.S. 'Interference' in Estonia Protested 44
- Estonian Minister Says Offenses Declining 45
  - Support for USSR Asserted 45
- Hero Criticizes Distortions of Estonian History *[IZVESTIYA 25 Feb]* 46
- Politburo Discusses Light Industry, Summit 47
- Demichev, Razumovskiy Attend Music Soiree 48
- Leaders Appear in Honor Guard for Ovchinnikov 48
- IZVESTIYA Editorializes on February Plenum *[23 Feb]* 48
- Ukrainian Writers Discuss Nationality Problems *[RADYANSKA UKRAINA 14 Feb]* 51
- History of One-Party System Discussed 52
- Philosopher Defends One-Party System 53
- Soviet Policy on Religion Viewed *[LE MONDE 24 Feb]* 54
- Deaths at Metallurgical Combine Reported 55
- Work Stoppage by Omsk Delivery Drivers Reported *[SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 24 Feb]* 56
- Changes in Labor Legislation Provisions Noted *[IZVESTIYA 19 Feb]* 57
- Letters Cite Problems Caused by Layoffs *[IZVESTIYA 13 Feb]* 59
- MVD Official Details Drug Problems 61
  - Technical Equipment Problems *[Grigoryev in PRAVDA 17 Feb]* 61
  - Discusses 'Narco-Mafia' 61
- Leaders of Antiques Smuggling Ring Imprisoned *[Ponomarev in PRAVDA 17 Feb]* 62
- Black Sea Shipping Response to Critics Scored *[Vasilets in PRAVDA 19 Feb]* 62
- Briefs 63
  - Collection of Speeches Published 63
  - Changes in Health Service 63
  - New Lithuanian Foreign Minister 64

Economic

- Party, Government Decision on Cadre Training 64
- Aganbegyan on Proposed Changes, Interpretations 64
- Commission Outlines Joint Enterprise Procedures 65
- Environmental Protection in Northwest Viewed 65
- Briefs 65
  - Optical Fiber Communications 65

Agricultural

Media Report 20-24 Feb Agricultural Developments 66

Scientific

'Mir' Crew Begin Space Walk To Install Battery 66
Soviet-Afghan Meeting on Joint Space Flight 66
Sagdayev Comments on Plans for Mars Mission 66
Izrael Urges Arctic Exploration Cooperation 67
Research Vessel Approaches Antarctic Station 67

Military

Yazov on Military History, New Achievements *[Warsaw ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI 22 Feb]* 68
Shcherbitskiy, Solovyev Mark Army Anniversary 72
Times 'Dictate' Different Military Approaches 72
Sergeyev Delivers DOSAAF Congress Report *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Feb]* 72

SS-12 Launchers in GDR Now Being Withdrawn

LD252055 Moscow TASS in English 2006 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Bischofswerda February 25 TASS—By TASS special correspondents Yuriy Borisov and Aleksey Korienko:

The small town of Bischofswerda near Dresden in the south of GDR is destined to go down into history. The implementation of the measures envisaged by the Soviet-American INF Treaty has been started here. In keeping with an agreement between the Soviet Union and the GDR, the withdrawal of Soviet missiles OTR-22 has been started here today ahead of schedule. These missiles were deployed in the GDR's territory in answer to the deployment of American Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in the West European countries.

Thus even before the ratification of the Soviet-American treaty the USSR is making the first step towards a limitation of weapons and towards disarmament. It thus once again sets an example of a responsible attitude to the problem of delivering mankind from the nuclear weapons.

"Today we are withdrawing all the launchers we are equipped with," the TASS correspondents were told by a spokesman for the command of the unit. This equipment will be taken to the Belorussian military district in the USSR's territory where the missiles themselves and the special parts of the launchers will be scrapped. Some other equipment, for example 500 hp truck-tractors, will be turned over for use in the economy. There are more than enough possibilities for their use in various peaceful projects.

NATO Spokesman Reacts to Missile Withdrawal

LD261009 Moscow TASS in English 0951 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Brussels February 26 TASS—The withdrawal of Soviet missiles from Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic before the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles is ratified, has been met with satisfaction in NATO, an official spokesman of the NATO headquarters said here.

However, he said, NATO countries were not going to follow this example.

Bogachev Condemns West's 'Compensation' Stand

LD261354 Moscow TASS in English 1324 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—TASS observer for military issues Vladimir Bogachev writes:

The withdrawal of Soviet shorter-range missiles OTR-22 from the GDR and Czechoslovakia before the coming into force of the INF Treaty brings to light a significant difference in approaches of the Soviet Union and the United States to a practical solution of the problem of arms limitation and reduction.

Demonstrating its goodwill and the desire to maintain the dynamism of the disarmament process, the USSR started unilaterally to meets its commitments without waiting for the ratification of the treaty. At the same time, a massive mobilization of opponents of the ratification is going on in the U.S. The Washington administration, true to its word, supports the treaty, but it often sides with the ultra-conservative forces. Meanwhile, the Pentagon continues to test missiles which, according to the treaty, are to be eliminated. The work of arms manufacturing factories turning out Pershing, Tomahawk and other missiles banned by the treaty has not been curtailed so far.

Moreover, immediately after the signing of the INF Treaty Washington's influential circles began to look for loopholes which would permit to destroy the substance of that historic document, to reduce to naught prospects of bringing down the level of military confrontation in Europe after its realization. Discussions are going on in the U.S. on the top level on how to fill the gap in the NATO military structure of Europe which is allegedly brought about by the realization of the INF Treaty. Proposals are put forward on the deployment of additional B-52 strategic bombers with cruise missiles, F-111 planes, MX intercontinental ballistic missiles, as well as on the modernization of Lance missiles with a view to increasing their range of action to reach 500 km.

The old absurd thesis on the need for building up armaments along with arms reduction was recalled in the U.S. Its idea is as follows: Along with the forced arms reduction in one of the spheres the U.S. should by all means increase by many times over its arsenals in other spheres, including nuclear ones. The name of the concept was changed, however. Opponents of disarmament call it "compensation" today.

The impression is that some circles in the West regard the undermining of the ideas of real disarmament as their main task. They are especially afraid of the growing attractiveness of socialist ideas, of the enhancing of the prestige of socialism as a result of the implementation of peace initiatives of member countries of the socialist community. This is the purpose of the 'compensation' campaign started in the U.S., as well as of the attempts to patch up the fundamentals of anti-Soviet imperialist propaganda with the help of new inventions about the 'preservation of Soviet military threat'.

Portugalov Responds to FRG General's Letter

LD241321 Moscow TASS in English 1237 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—"The U.S. Soviet Treaty on Eliminating Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles has forcefully demonstrated that East-West relations were set in motion". These words belong to Major-General Rolf Huettel, head of a headquarters section of the West German Defence Ministry. His article is published today in the newspaper "MOSCOW NEWS" under the rubrick "Discussion Club". The topic of the debate is ways to achieve security in Europe following the signing of the INF Treaty.

Developing the thesis that the goal of the Federal Republic of Germany "is military stability between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation with the preservation of the minimum of nuclear weapons", the West German author is out to prove that the current situation in Europe is determined by a supposedly evident preponderance of the Warsaw Treaty troops in conventional and chemical armaments and in short-range nuclear weapons which are still remained". [quotation mark as received]

Replying to him, Soviet publicist Nikolay Portugalov writes that general Huettel approaches the dialogue with outdated standards. For instance, his thesis on "The Warsaw Treaty Organisation's Superiority and a Possibility of Warsaw Treaty Countries' Incursion Into Western Europe" is unfounded. Portugalov quotes authoritative West German experts, among them Andreas von Buelov, former state secretary in the Defence Ministry, as saying straightforwardly that there is no edge whatsoever possessed by the Warsaw Treaty Organisation in troops and conventional armaments and the more so possibility of Warsaw countries invading Western Europe. [sentence as received]

Touching on General Huettel's claims that it is "the presence of nuclear weapons and them alone that brought about a situation where wars cannot be the means of solving political problems", Portugalov writes: Is it not possible that a nuclear war can be triggered by a human or technical error of ordinary executors in our days? If one is to follow the general's logic, why should we not raise the issue of cancelling the nuclear non-proliferation treaty? Then, regional wars will likewise "be impossible"...But one could say equally successfully: "I have not been run over by a car until today exclusively thanks to the existence of the motor transport".

At last, the Soviet publicist stresses, mixing up tactical nuclear missiles with tactical nuclear systems in general, Huettel writes about a certain "Soviet superiority in this field" and suggests cutting them down to the NATO level. And what about over 4,000 nuclear warheads of NATO in the European theatre? But the general does even discuss [as received] the issue of the "third zero" which, as it seems, would be in the vital interests of Europe, including West Germany.

Public Hearings Held on INF Ratification

LD241430 Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—The participants in the public hearings, which were held at the Soviet Peace Committee today, have expressed unanimous support for the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. The meeting was attended by prominint scientists, military and political experts, activists of the Public Disarmament Commission.

"There was no clash of view in the course of the debate and this is natural", said Vladimir Orel, vice chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee. The hearings were held within the framework of the process of ratification of the Soviet-American treaty. Everybody realizes the importance of the treaty, which starts the real process of destruction of nuclear weapons, and everybody ardently wishes its speediest ratification.

Vladimir Orel proposed that a public system of monitoring the implementation of the INF Treaty be set up. He expressed the wish that representatives of "people's diplomacy" be invited for the procedure of elimination of the first Soviet missile.

Retired Rear-Admiral Aleksandr Astafyev described the Soviet-American treaty as a model for further agreements leading to disarmament. "The fact that the USSR eliminates under the treaty more missiles than the USA, should not worry us", he pointed out. "In this case the algebra of disarmament is preferable to the simple arithmetic of armament. It is important that both sides displayed preparedness not just for a reduction, but for the total elimination of a whole class of nuclear missiles."

The participants in the hearings expressed concern about NATO's intention to take so-called "compensation" measures running counter to the spirit of the INF Treaty. The USSR Supreme Soviet, they stressed, should express its disagreement with the attempts of the militarists at depreciating the important agreement through continuing the weapons race.

Representatives of Soviet public expressed the wish that the military equipment to be dismantled should be used with peaceful aims. Enthusiastic support was expressed for the proposal to use the platform of one of the SS-20 missiles in the propaganda march for peace and disarmament.

The results of the public hearings will be brought to the attention of the preparatory commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet attending to the questions pertaining to the ratification of the Soviet-American treaty.

Comparison of 'Official' Treaty, Press Version

52001054 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 9 December 1987 publishes in its Second Edition on pages 1-2 a 9,000-word copy of the treaty under the title "Treaty Between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles." A word-by-word comparison shows the copy to be an exact reprint of the official Russian language version of the treaty. Page 3 of PRAVDA contains summaries of the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Establishment of the Data Base for the Treaty, the Protocol on Procedures Governing the Elimination of the Missile Systems Subject to the Treaty, and the Protocol Regarding Inspections Relating to the Treaty.

Moscow APN DAILY REVIEW in English No 28 on 10 December 1987 carries on pp 1-28 translations of the treaty text and summaries of the protocols as published in PRAVDA, giving PRAVDA as the source.

IAEA Session Ends, Results Reviewed

LD252212 Moscow TASS in English 1934 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Vienna February 25 TASS—By TASS correspondent Viktor Tumanov:

The scheduled session of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has closed here today. The delegates to the session met with great interest the reply message from Mikhail Gorbachev to Hans Blix, IAEA director-general, which was issued among its participants. The message highly appreciates the control activities of the agency in the field of guarantees of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The session discussed a number of important issues concerning the discharge by the agency of functions of control for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, a further development of cooperation between states in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Much attention was devoted to measures aimed at ensuring the safe development of nuclear power engineering.

The participants examined specific issues involved in the programme to ensure an international regime of safe development of nuclear power engineering put forward by the Soviet Union at the special session of the IAEA general conference in September 1986. The course of implementation was discussed of the conventions concluded in the field of ensuring the safety of nuclear power engineering, questions were examined concerning armed attacks against nuclear plants and measures to combat nuclear terrorism. The delegates heard with gratification the announcement that proceeding from humanitarian considerations and in conformity with the letter and spirit of the convention on assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, the USSR is prepared to supply material and equipment at request of the states—parties to the convention. The session also discussed questions pertaining to the agency's current activities, in particular—technical assistance to the developing countries in furthering the development of nuclear power engineering.

Medvedev Receives Leaders of Bloc Missions

PM261008 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Official Announcements"]

[Text] On 24 February V.A. Medvedev, CPSU Central Committee secretary, met with heads of the diplomatic missions of Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, Cambodia, the DPRK, Cuba, Laos, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, and Czechoslovakia.

A comradely conversation took place, devoted to the results of the CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum. Attention was centered on the questions raised in M.S. Gorbachev's speech at the plenum, questions of ideological backup for the restructuring that is developing in the Soviet Union and the renewal of all spheres of public and state life, and of preparations for the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference. The CPSU Central Committee plenum decisions on the restructuring of secondary and higher education in the USSR and the means of further implementing it were clarified.

Chnoupek Hosts Dinner for Pact Ministers

PM251101 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "About the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Prague"]

[Text] Prague, 23 Feb—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister B. Chnoupek gave a dinner in honor of the participants of the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers' meeting.

Speaking at the dinner, B. Chnoupek stressed the importance of the meeting for the further strengthening of the collaboration of the Warsaw Pact member states in the international arena. He gave a high appraisal of the atmosphere of trust and frankness in which the meeting—which contributed to the deepening of the fraternal countries' reciprocal information—had taken place.

In a reply speech E.A. Shevardnadze expressed thanks for the conditions created by Czechoslovakia for the meeting which was held on the eve of Victorious February which is not only a festival of the Czechoslovak working people but of all Czechoslovakia's friends.

Editorial Hails New Thinking in World Politics

PM251300 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 88 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Hope Reborn: The New Thinking Exerts a Positive Influence on World Politics"]

[Text] A humanist nature is fundamentally inherent in socialism. But socialism's role as expressor and defender of the interests of all mankind is particularly prominent now that the world faces a choice: Either people destroy nuclear weapons, or nuclear weapons will destroy the human race. To ensure mankind's survival and establish the principles of equality and universal security in the world arena is, above all, the aim of the Soviet Union's efforts. The CPSU Central Committee February Plenum held the other day paid considerable attention to the study of the international aspects of the ideology of restructuring. The plenum approved the relevant provisions and assessments in M.S. Gorbachev's speech and called for the humanist content and objectives of the foreign policy activity of the CPSU and the Soviet state to be publicized widely.

As a result of objective analysis, the party made a breakthrough in the scientific comprehension of present-day realities and arrived at the need for restructuring and the new thinking, which was transformed into an innovative and dynamic policy. On 15 January 1986, a program was proclaimed for progressing toward a world without nuclear weapons, an essential condition of mankind's survival. The 27th CPSU Congress provided a detailed interpretation of the philosophy of peaceful coexistence as the turn of the century approaches and substantiated the concept of a comprehensive system of peace and international security. The Soviet initiatives in disarmament and other concrete steps in the international arena are no longer merely a response to particular actions by the West. They have been placed on a firm, long-term, scientific footing.

Thus the path was laid to Geneva and Reykjavik, and later Washington. The Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles signed there was the start of real disarmament. But it was also the result of the struggle of the socialist countries, other peace-loving states, and mass public movements against the nuclear threat. It was the result of the activity of outstanding figures in science, culture, and the church. The treaty was the consequence of the sensible position of many politicians and representatives of business and military circles. It was an indication of the level the potential for peace has reached. The INF Treaty was evidence that the new thinking has already begun to influence world politics.

However, the Washington treaty is not a pretext for tranquillity or complacency. The opponents of the normalization of relations with the USSR immediately began to "sound the assembly" to rally people against its ratification. While defending the treaty, the U.S. Administration is at the same time assenting to extreme right-wing and anti-Soviet, anticommunist rhetoric, not only verbally, but also in certain actions in the militarist style, such as provocations near Soviet borders.

The pitch of militarist activity in the European part of NATO has been stepped up markedly. They are hurrying to "compensate" for the missiles due for elimination. They plan to build up other types of nuclear arms, especially at sea and in the air, cynically pointing out that the treaty does not cover them. From London, Paris, and Brussels a categorical "no" can be heard once again to the renunciation of nuclear weapons, even in the remote future. Heightened activity has begun in the sphere of bilateral and multilateral military integration. Positive comments on our restructuring are again giving way to expatiations on "communist expansion" and the "disastrous consequences" for the West if the disarmament process continues.

A consolidation of reactionary, extreme anti-Soviet forces is taking place. They have become concerned not only because disarmament threatens the profits of the military-industrial complex. They are frightened by the growth of sympathies toward the Soviet Union and the revival of the magnetic force of socialism as a society of working people. All this undermines the "enemy image," the ideological foundations of anti-Soviet and imperialist policy. That is why its initiators want to stop the disarmament train, which is gathering speed.

The USSR is ready to do everything to radically improve the world situation. To do this, socialism has no need to renounce either its principles or its ideals. We counterpose to the militarist cult of force the concept of the balance of interests and mutual equal security. Our state interests are not contrary to the interests of the peoples and the working people's masses in any society.

The struggle to exclude war from international politics is the struggle to save millions of lives—first and foremost, the lives of working people, who suffer most in any war. Peaceful competition and businesslike cooperation between states with different social systems, apart from anything else, shatter anti-Sovietism and therefore anticommunism, thereby weakening reactionary pressure on democratic gains and aspirations. Eradicating militarism would mean not only curbing the most reactionary forces but also increasing the number of jobs everywhere. With the growth of the economically active part of the population, the social base of democracy and progress would also be widened. Finally, creating a new world economic order and resolving the critical problems of the Third World would mean creating human conditions for existence for the many millions of people inhabiting entire continents and including them in historical creativity. That is a very important factor in world progress, independent development, and revolutionary transformations.

A key historical question of our day is to combine class and common human principles in world development, and therefore, in politics. Entirely new factors have appeared and acquired crucial significance: the threat of nuclear self-destruction, the danger of ecological disaster, the social consequences of the scientific and technical revolution, the disastrous position of developing countries. The exacerbation of global problems and the need for international cooperation in resolving them highlight the new, priority role of common human values as the core of practical politics.

Both negative and positive processes in the modern age promote this. On the one hand, unprecedented dangers have arisen to the very existence of the human race. On the other hand, the role of the masses and the general democratic factor in intrastate and world politics has increased. People want to live in a world where they are not oppressed by fear of nuclear catastrophe, where they do not have to spend huge sums on weapons which they can basically use only against themselves. People want to live in a world where the prosperity of the few is not achieved at the cost of the poverty of others.

The internationalization of many processes on a worldwide scale is accelerating. At the same time, there is an increasing number and ever wider diversity of varieties of national and regional development. In these conditions, a free social and political choice should become the fundamental principle of international relations. Our ideal is a world without weapons and violence, a world in which each people freely chooses its path to the future, its way of life.

Is it possible at the present stage, given the interdependence and integral nature of the world that has been achieved by the end of the 20th century, to exert such an influence on the nature of imperialism as to block its most dangerous manifestations? That is the key question. In pondering it, we see that the new realities are changing the correlation of forces between the "war party" and the "peace party" within the framework of monopoly capitalism and creating different international conditions for the new phase of our revolution.

The historic mission of the forces of socialism, democracy, and progress lies in strengthening the existing realities and creating new ones which will become an insuperable obstacle to the forces of aggression and intervention. This is precisely what the Soviet Union is doing with its restructuring. Our foreign policy achievements and the very cause of preserving peace are rooted in its successes.

Broad strata of the world public see restructuring as a good thing for all mankind and are sympathetic toward Soviet foreign policy, while many openly and actively support it. With their participation in the revolutionary renewal of society, Soviet people have revived hope for the future throughout the world.

Paper Reviews Foreign Ministry Briefing

PM251239 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Feb 88 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] The Near East was the priority topic at a 24 February briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center. V.P. Polyakov, chief of the Near East and North African Countries Administration and member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium, addressed those present. He shared his impressions of his tour of Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. He had been entrusted with the mission of conveying a verbal message from M.S. Gorbachev to the leaderships of those countries.

The speaker pointed out that the leaders of the said states greeted the Soviet Union's stand on Afghanistan with understanding and expressed full support for it. He particularly emphasized that the visit to Saudi Arabia had essentially been the first visit there by a Soviet official representative on an official mission for 50 years.

Problems of a Near East settlement were also discussed in the talks held during the trip. The general opinion was expressed that the convening of an international conference is the way to a settlement. When examining in this connection the latest ideas advanced by the United States, it was pointed out that they lack the chief thing—regard for the interests of all sides involved in the conflict. The old policy of debarring the PLO from the peace process and from resolving the Palestinian problem is practically a common thread in these new ideas. As our contacts show, the member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium said, probably not one Arab state can can agree with this.

G.I. Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, dwelt on the question of Afghanistan. The present government of that country is the only legitimate one, he said. It is represented at the United Nations, in the Nonaligned Movement, and in other international organizations. The creation of a coalition government and its structure are an internal Afghan problem which must be resolved by the Afghans themselves, exclusively by peaceful means, by means of a broad inter-Afghan dialogue. As for the "comprehensive structure of the transitional government of Afghanistan" hastily elaborated by the "Alliance of Seven" in Peshawar, this is an attempt to torpedo the national reconciliation process.

The question of certain press articles and statements by officials of north European countries was also touched on at the briefing. They report the possible replacement of the Canadian brigade earmarked, as officially stated, for the defense of northern Norway in a crisis situation by troops of other NATO countries, particularly the FRG. At the same time, a British Defense Ministry spokesman has announced a change in the plans of the British Navy's combat operations and its movement closer to the Soviet Union's borders at a time of tension. Plans and intentions of this kind should be regarded from the viewpoint of their aims: Whether they are aimed at lowering the level of military confrontation between the member states of military alliances or at preserving or even raising this level. This, it seems to us, must be the basic criterion, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out. However, he added, the level of concentration of armed forces and armaments in the north, particularly of naval forces, is already excessively high.

Kashlev Interviewed on CSCE Vienna Meeting

PM251605 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Report on interview with Yu.B. Kashlev, head of the Soviet delegation at the Vienna meeting of representatives of the CSCE participant countries, conducted by own correspondent S. Tosunyan under the heading "Artificial Barriers: How the Discussion of Cooperation in the Economy, Science, Technology, and Environmental Protection Is Proceeding at the Vienna Meeting"]

[Text] Whenever the Vienna meeting of representatives of the CSCE participant-states is discussed, the problems of military detente and humanitarian issues are mentioned more than any other. It cannot be denied that they are extremely important. But there is also another package of problems concerning cooperation in the economy, science, technology, and environmental protection. How do matters stand in these areas? Yu.B. Kashlev, head of the Soviet delegation at the Vienna meeting, talked about this at the request of our Vienna correspondent S. Tosunyan.

The interests of developing the all-European process, the head of the Soviet delegation said, require progress in equal measure on all the problems under discussion. Now, with a serious incentive for political dialogue and disarmament, a favorable situation is being created for the all-around development of economic, scientific, and technical ties and ecological cooperation between states. Accordingly, we are also more responsible for ensuring that existing potential is really used to the full and that the Vienna meeting goes further than the agreements reached in Helsinki and Madrid.

This is an appropriate point to recall that the Final Act formulates the most important principles for the development of trade, economic, scientific, technical, and ecological cooperation, indicates the possible forms this cooperation could take, and recommends specific areas of cooperation. For a variety of reasons, we have certainly not succeeded in doing everything we planned in Helsinki to do. Meanwhile, the present political climate in Europe depends to a considerable extent on the development of the entire complex of economic ties between East and West; moreover, no single country can realize its economic potential to the full without broadly cooperating with others on an equitable, mutually advantageous basis.

Consequently, Yu.B. Kashlev noted, we want the corresponding section of the Vienna meeting's final document to have real, weighty content. The Vienna meeting as a whole is expected to give political impetus to the development of trade, economic, scientific, and technical ties.

I do not wish to embellish the situation. It still leaves something to be desired. This section of the draft final document is not yet ready. It is still being drafted.

It is quite obvious that the desire to exploit the potential inherent in the development of economic ties is deeply at variance with any kind of discrimination, embargo, or trade and credit restrictions. This is a fundamental issue, a matter of principle. If we do not solve this issue, we cannot progress in other areas. We cannot ignore the fact that there is now a greater understanding than ever before of the need to remove unjustified, discriminatory barriers.

Overcoming an economic and technological split in Europe—should this split arise—will be considerably more difficult than eliminating differences in the political sphere. That is why I would like once again to indicate the importance of ensuring that issues concerning the elimination of discriminatory barriers are given full weight in the final document.

The Soviet delegation, Yu.B. Kashlev continued, believes that the draft final document must clearly state that it is essential to expand scientific and technical cooperation, refrain from applying measures which impede development, and improve the conditions for equitable, mutually advantageous economic ties.

The state of the environment is becoming increasingly dangerous to the world community. People expect us, the participants in the meeting, to come up with serious initiatives in this sphere. We must take an integrated, comprehensive approach to ecological problems. When developing our strategy to protect the environment and make rational use of natural resources, we not only have the opportunity to exchange experience but can also highlight particularly important areas for international cooperation. Preparing the relevant section of the final document, we are proceeding from the need to create an integrated system of international environmental protection.

It should also reflect intentions to develop cooperation in new, promising fields. One such area is world cooperation in the development of resources in the north and the Arctic, which was proposed by M.S. Gorbachev in Murmansk. The Soviet delegation at the Vienna meeting has made specific proposals aimed at developing cooperation in environmental protection in the north and scientific research in the Arctic. These proposals include the following: development of a comprehensive environmental protection plan; development of cooperation in the study and use of natural resources in the north as part of the general, long-term "strategy for environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources for the period through 2000 and beyond," developed within the framework of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); the pooling of efforts by CSCE participant-states in Arctic research, including the exchange of experience and results of scientific research conducted in individual countries; development of a unified energy program for northern Europe.

The post-Vienna organization of extensive measures in economic, scientific and technical, and ecological cooperation will contribute to the intensified study and solution of many of the problems enumerated.

The questions of economic and scientific and technical cooperation, Yu.B. Kashlev said in conclusion, affect the vital interests of prosperity and progress for all mankind and must be given a worthy place in the Vienna meeting's final document.

Outlines Prospects for Accord

LD261219 Moscow TASS in English 1139 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Vienna February 26 TASS—A plenary session of delegations that analyzed the state of things connected with the working out of a final document has been held at the all-European meeting in Vienna. Representatives of socialist countries again urged to work more actively for the meeting to end with the reaching of significant and well-balanced agreements on all the major spheres of the Helsinki process.

Ambassador Yuriy Kashlev, head of the Soviet delegation who spoke today, outlined prospects of possible agreements to be reached at the Vienna meeting which would perceptibly advance the all-European process. In the military sphere the point at issue is a decision to continue the conference on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe and at the same time to start new talks of 23 countries included in the Warsaw Treaty and NATO on the reduction of the armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. In the political sphere that participating countries should reiterate their allegiance to the ten Helsinki principles, to agree on improving the mechanism of a peaceful settlement of controversial problems and to hold a special session of experts from 35 countries on this problem. [sentence as received]

"So far as the 'second basket' is concerned, it is necessary to reach agreement on giving a new impetus to the trade, economic, scientific and ecological cooperation, to hold major all-European forums in those countries and to remove artificial barriers created in the spirit of the notorious Cocom.

"A successful completion of the Vienna meeting could start a new stage in the development of the human element in the all-European process. Its participants could agree on creating a mechanism of consultations and cooperation in the sphere of human rights and humanitarian relations, could hold a number of all-European conferences on this subject after the Vienna meeting, to sign concrete agreements on the expansion of contacts between people and public organizations, to simplify the practices of issuing visas and to facilitate the reunification of families.

"However, all these possible agreements are put in jeopardy by some NATO countries. They distort the perestroyka and democratization processes now under way in socialist countries and try to present things in such a way as though socialism is adjusting itself to the standards of bourgeois democracy. Proceeding from this assumption, they put forward extremist demands which have nothing to do with reality. Meanwhile, during the period of the work to the Vienna meeting the human rights situation in the West did not improve. On the contrary, it further deteriorated: Unemployment, racial discrimination and homelessness are growing; fighters for peace and civil rights are persecuted. It is high time the West gave up the double-standard tactics in the humanitarian sphere.

"There is a favourable opportunity to successfully end the Vienna meeting, provided all its participants display a sense of responsibility and realism", Kashlev said.

More on Meeting of Balkan Foreign Ministers

Shevardnadze Sends Note

PM251614 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 88 Second Edition p 4

[E. Shevardnadze message: "To Comrade Budimir Loncar, SFRY Federal Secretary of Foreign Affairs"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Loncar,

In connection with the opening in Belgrade of the conference of foreign ministers of the Balkan states, please convey to the participants best wishes for successful and fruitful work.

Your conference is taking place at a crucial point in the development of the international situation and the birth of new trends in world politics, trends based on a fresh, realistic interpretation of the modern world. Mankind's future depends on the efforts of every state, regardless of sociopolitical orientation, size of territory, or population size. We value highly the political potential of the Balkan states and their energetic actions in favor of peace and universal security, in the interests of building the common European home.

People in the Soviet Union regard with understanding and goodwill the efforts of the Balkan peninsula states to establish pan-Balkan dialogue and develop regional cooperation in various spheres. There can be no doubt that an improvement in the political climate in the Balkans will not only benefit the region's countries but will exert a positive influence on the situation in the world as a whole.

We actively advocate that throughout the world, including the Balkans, optimum solutions be found to promote the strengthening of security and development of consensus for the sake of peace and progress. It is our conviction that the path to this lies through the strengthening of confidence betweens states, creation of a moral and political atmosphere promoting mankind's deliverance from nuclear and chemical weapons and radical reductions in all types of weapons, and expansion of the zone of collaboration in various areas. You may be sure that your efforts in this respect will meet with the approval and support of the Soviet Union.

I am confident that the Belgrade forum will be an important factor in European and world politics.

I wish your conference success.

E. Shevardnadze.

Albanian Minister Speaks

LD252154 Moscow TASS in English 1816 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade February 25 TASS—By TASS special correspondents Vladimir Dmitriyev and Vladimir Matyash:

Albanian Foreign Minister Reiz Malile, addressing the Belgrade meeting of Balkan countries, has come out in favour of creating an atmosphere of confidence and mutual understanding and promoting bilateral and multilateral relations in the region.

"The Albanian Government," he said, "has backed and will back any constructive step leading to an improved situation in the Balkans and serving the cause of peace, stability and security in this region and beyond.

"It proceeds from the premise that, despite known difficulties, there are substantial opportunities to attain this goal, given good will and determination to overcome these difficulties.

"As to Albania, it has good will, it is prepared to apply sincere efforts in cooperation with other countries to attaining these objectives.

"Under the present-day conditions in the Balkans, in our opinion, it is necessary above all to create an atmosphere of mutual trust."

Much had been said of late, Malile observed, about the value of agreements signed between the United States and the Soviet Union on removing intermediate-range missiles from Europe.

The Albanian Government, he said, had unequivocally opposed since the very beginning the deployment of these weapons, it had pressed and was pressing for their removal from Europe.

One had to admit, however, Malile noted, that the agreement concluded between the two powers, even after its implementation, would result but in a symbolic reduction of the huge U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals in Europe and in the regions around it.

It would have real value only if it was followed by other important and effective steps towards disarmament, the minister said.

Much had been said, and was being said now, the Albanian representative noted, about the transformation of the Balkans into a nuclear-weapon free zone. One could not deny that the idea was rational and concordant with the security interests in the Balkans on a broader plane.

One should take note of that, the more so for the nuclear weapons in the Balkans belonged to countries other than those where they had been deployed, and those countries had virtually no control over them.

Ridding the Balkans of nuclear weapons would become a step of diverse significance. Firstly, it would strengthen the sovereignty of countries where it had been deployed, diminish political and military complications connected with these weapons, improve the overall climate in the Balkans, consolidate mutual trust and remove the problem that posed a serious threat and was a source of tension and disunity, Malile said.

The Albanian Government approved of the fair demands made by the countries in the peninsula for the removal of foreign nuclear weapons from the Balkans and backed efforts aimed at achieving that.

"Our view of the existing pacts, NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, is known," the minister said. "We believe that they are the chief factors of confrontation.

"That is why we have always backed the view that disbanding these pacts would create necessary conditions for achieving trust and genuine international security."

Albania favoured independent development and stability of every Balkan nation, he said. "The Albanian Government openly declared and I am authorized to stress at the meeting of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers that Albania will do no harm to its neighbours."

"Developing relations with neighbouring countries was one of the priorities of Albania's foreign policy."

Outcome of Second Day Noted

LD252318 Moscow TASS in English 2256 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade February 25 TASS—By TASS special correspondents, Anatoliy Bocharov, Viktor Kuznetsov ahd Vladimir Matyash:

Today is the second day of the foreign ministers' meeting of the six Balkan states. The foreign ministers of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia and their advisors and experts have held a closed-door meeting.

In the opinion of political observers, there is a good basis for finding points of contact and drawing closer the stands on the key problems of that vast area, above all on the question of creating a nuclear-free zone there. It was noted that an improvement of the political climate in the Balkans will serve the best interests not only of the countries of that region, but will also leave a positive impact on the situation in Europe and the world as a whole.

Socialist Romania's Foreign Minister Ioan Totu proposed that a Balkan summit meeting be held in Bucharest late this year or in the first half of 1989. This idea had the support of the delegations of Bulgaria and Greece. Budimir Loncar, Yugoslavia's federal secretary for foreign affairs, proposed that regular meetings of foreign ministers of the states of the region be held.

Conference Concludes

LD261450 Moscow TASS in English 1313 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade February 26 TASS—The foreign ministers of Balkan countries have ended a meeting in Belgrade today after adopting a final document which set guidelines for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region.

It stressed, among other things, that the Belgrade forum had made a considerable contribution to easing tension in the Balkans and launching fruitful dialogue among all the countries of the region.

Meeting chairman Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs of Yugoslavia, said in his closing remarks that the document was a result of joint efforts by the governments of all the Balkan countries and met the spirit of mutual understanding and all-round cooperation between the nations of the region.

United States & Canada

Pentagon Planning New Cruise Missile
LD260926 Moscow TASS in English 0835 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Washington February 26 TASS—The Pentagon is working out plans of creating a new long-range non-nuclear cruise missile. Reporting this fact, WASHINGTON TIMES which is close to the U.S. Administration wrote that the new missile was to "replace some of the firepower lost under the superpower arms treaty signed in December". A final decision to this effect is expected to be taken soon.

The newspaper pointed out that "the INF Treaty bans ground-launched weapons, and the new missile would be aircraft-launched". At present "the Joint Chiefs of Staff are reviewing a formal requirement for the new highly accurate weapon. The creation of the new cruise missile will be part of a more extensive program of the modernization of U.S. non-nuclear arsenals.

"Improved conventional weapons can play an important role in improving our deterrent posture by holding a range of theatre and even strategic targets at risk without having to resort to nuclear weapons", Senator Dan Quayle, Indiana Republican, wrote to Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, early in February. "We believe that it is crucial the Joint Chiefs of Staff help establish and validate the Air Force requirement for long-range conventional cruise missiles".

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee last week Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci assured senators that the Pentagon would do so.

Many American specialists believe that because of the low cost of non-nuclear cruise missiles they will be probably produced by tens of thousands.

WASHINGTON TIMES admitted that the creation by the U.S. of new cruise missiles could "complicate ongoing U.S.-Soviet arms control talks aimed at halving the number of long-range nuclear weapons in the superpowers' arsenals".

U.S. Wants Nicaraguan Problems Solved by Force
LD252313 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Vyacheslav Lavrentyev commentary]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Administration is insisting on using force to solve Central America's problems. Speaking to journalists in Washington, President Reagan accused the Nicaraguan Government of being unwilling to strive for a cease-fire through talks with the contras. He stated that he would seek all possible means to render assistance to the contras, whom he calls fighters for democracy. Here's a latest news commentary. Vyacheslav Lavrentyev is at the microphone:

At the start of this month, the U.S. Congress refused the administration's request for just over $36 million in the form of aid for the Nicaraguan contras. That was an alarming signal for the White House, indicating that the government's Central American diplomacy is not supported by the American people. Nonetheless, as we can see from the President's latest statement, he has no intention of changing that policy.

There is a great deal that is illogical in the administration's behavior. For example, it categorically refuses direct talks with Nicaragua's Sandinist government on the basis that it is Marxist, while at the same time cooperating and concluding treaties with the Soviet Union. This was pointed out recently, incidentally, by Costa Rica's President Arias, whose plan for achieving stable peace in Central America the five countries in the region are now attempting to implement. As for supporting the contras, the U.S. Administration is consistent in its behavior. [passage omitted]

Now that the five Central American republics are attempting to resolve contentious issues at the negotiating table, why is Washington putting forward a military and confrontational method of solving them, placing its hopes in armed contras? The answer is simple: The U.S. Administration is driven by the fear of losing control over that strategically important region, and its imperial interests instruct it not to stand on ceremony in its choice of means.

FBI Involved in 'Spying' on Library Visitors
LD251847 Moscow TASS in English 1414 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] New York February 25 TASS—By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Lazarev:

What are the duties of a librarian? Any normal person would hardly name spying on readers as one of them. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, however, believes it to be the librarians' official and patriotic duty.

This agency demands that librarians wage struggle against the threat posed by foreign spy agents who use libraries for conducting their operations.

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER quotes FBI sources as saying that spies not only make appointments at libraries, but gain valuable technical information from books on the shelves.

"We are faced with a premeditated violation of American laws by the FBI," Edith Tiger, head of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, told the TASS correspondent.

Thirty seven American states have a special law providing for confidentiality in the use of libraries: One has no right to report without the court's sanction what books are read by visitors.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was demanding that librarians act in direct violation of the law and inform on those who read the so-called subversive literature, Tiger went on to say.

According to him [as received], FBIS agents visit public and university libraries and try to incline their staff to collaboration with the FBI. Tiger described this fact as outrageous and said that his committee had sent more than one protest to the FBI, demanding an end to this recruitment.

Tiger's point of view is shared by Judith Croug, member of the leadership of the Intellectual Freedom Committee. She said that the committee had more than once sent requests to Washington for documents assumed as a basis for the FBI library spying programme, but had received no papers yet.

Many members of the American Library Association, to which the Intellectual Freedom Committee is affiliated, are convinced that U.S. Congress should hold special hearings on this issue. The idea is backed by some legislators.

China

Beijing Embassy Marks Armed Forces Anniversary

OW252044 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to China Troyanovskiy and Military Attache (Proskurnin) held a reception at the Soviet Embassy in Beijing on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Armed Forces. Among those attending the reception was He Qizong, deputy chief of staff of the PLA General Staff Headquarters.

PRC Envoy Speaks at UN Meeting on Xizang

OW230537 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Chinese Government has unswervingly implemented the policy of respecting the Tibetan people's religious beliefs and traditional customs, said a Chinese representative in his speech at the meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights held in Geneva. He also asserted: During the Cultural Revolution, there were indeed incidents in Xizang where Buddhist monasteries and temples were destroyed. However, these incidents were not limited to Xizang. Similar incidents occurred in other parts of China during that period.

'Foreign-Invested Joint Ventures' in PRC Noted

OW221125 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1500 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] The Soviet FOREIGN TRADE magazine carried a report on the establishment of foreign-invested joint ventures in China. The report touched on the building and management of the joint ventures and the investment made by each side. The magazine noted that establishment of Sino-foreign joint ventures is a major component of China's policy of opening to the outside world and importing foreign capital and advanced technology.

There are now more than 4,000 such joint ventures in China; however, not all of them have been set up to meet the need of China's national economy to upgrade technology. Key sectors of China's economy have only a 30 percent share of the total foreign investment made in China. In addition, the magazine pointed out, a large number of these joint ventures are assembling plants that do not need any new technology.

RSFSR Trade Minister on Trade With PRC

OW250549 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] In an interview with Moscow Radio, RSFSR Minister of Trade Shimanskiy highly appraised China as a potential trade partner.

Not long ago, he visited China's trade departments and domestic market and held talks with his Chinese counterparts on the new situation in the development of Soviet-Chinese trade relations.

Shimanskiy held that initiative should be taken in seeking new ways for trade cooperation to develop between the two countries. Trade departments in the two countries should establish direct contacts or relations in using foreign exchange. Major department stores in the Soviet Union and China may directly exchange commodities, which can be called an expression of such an initiative. The Soviet Union has already cooperated with other socialist countries this way in developing trade relations. There are broad prospects for developing Soviet-Chinese trade relations. It is expected that such questions will be discussed when a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade visits the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev's Book on Perestroyka Published

LD252028 Moscow TASS in English 1606 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Beijing February 25 TASS—The book by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev "Perestroyka: New Thinking for Our Country and the World" was presented in a ceremony at the

USSR Embassy in the People's Republic of China. The book was brought out in a large imprint in Chinese by Shize Zhishi Chubanshe publishers.

It is said in the preface to the Chinese publication: "The book sets out new thinking of the author on questions of perestroyka in the Soviet Union and on international problems. After being elected general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachev worked out new theory, policy and views on the present stage of the development of socialism in the Soviet Union, political and economic restructuring, as well as on some major problems of Soviet history. The book sets out his views on specific features of the world of today and international relations, also on the approach of the CPSU and the Soviet Government to some disputed international problems".

"The book will help Chinese readers to understand correctly the views of its author and the Soviet leadership", it is emphasized in the preface.

Speaking at the ceremony, director of Shize Zhishi Chubanshe publishers, Zhu Le said that the best translators of classics of Marxism-Leninism participated in the preparation of the Chinese edition of Mikhail Gorbachev's book.

Northeast Asia

No Tae-u Sworn In as President of South Korea

LD251502 Moscow TASS in English 1404 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo February 25 TASS—By TASS correspondents V. Kuchko and V. Solntsev:

Protected by thousands of uniformed police and plain-clothed security agents, the plaza in front of the National Assembly (parliament) of South Korea today was the site of a presidential inauguration ceremony for retired General No Tae-u.

He replaced dictator Chon Tu-hwan whose seven-year rule was marked by wholesale repression.

After a series of military coups, it was the first peaceful transfer of power in South Korea for many years.

The new head of state was elected for five years at last December's direct presidential election.

Seeking to show that the grim period of military rule is over and done away with, No has included several representatives of business, scientific and cultural circles in his cabinet and promises amnesty for political prisoners.

No said after taking the oath that "the time of human rights violations and torture in secret jails has passed". He didn't stint words to underline his commitment to achieving "democracy and national harmony" in the country.

Touching on his administration's foreign policy, No stressed a desire to strengthen ties with the United States and other Western countries as well as Japan.

At the same time he called for forming relations with "states that have a different ideology and socio-political systems". In his words, this will help "stability, peace and joint flourishing in East Asia".

No declared a "readiness for dialogue" with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In the meantime, local observers note, Seoul authorities, far from terminating, have only stepped up the scare campaign over a "threat from the North". The campaign, targetting public opinion, is being conducted with U.S. and Japanese help.

The largest opposition party of South Korea—the reunification Democratic Party—has issued a statement saying it does not recognize the rule of No Tae-u who, it said, has won the election by dint of machinations.

The statement said the new administration will only be able to win popular trust if it renounces dictatorial methods completely.

Police Warn Against Protests

LD242011 Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo February 24 TASS—South Korean police have warned that they would be tough with protesters at tomorrow's ceremony of inauguration to the presidency of retired General No Tae-u. He will replace dictator Chon To-hwan whose rule was marked with mass repressions against South Korea's democratic movement. The powers of the head of the previous regime are due to expire this midnight. The change of power in the country is peaceful this time. Earlier for a long time it was seized in military coups. Chon To-hwan was put into the presidency seven years ago.

A police representative has said that the security forces will not tolerate street demonstrations. A 120,000 strong police corps has already been alerted. But as is shown by reports from Seoul, meetings and manifestations of protest are planned to be held in the South Korean capital, in Chonju-si and also in Kwanju where regular troops perpetrated a repression in May, 1980 against the residents of the town who rose in uprising against the dictatorship. Preparations for actions of protest to be held in time for the beginning of the official ceremony of inauguration of No Tae-u, who won parliamentary elections in December last year, began as far as last week.

On Tuesday, manifestations of protest were held by students of four Seoul universities and nine higher educational establishments in other cities of South Korea. They were keynoted by the slogans "We shall not allow No Tae-u in power", "We demand revision of the results of unfair elections". There were clashes with police, some students were injured.

'Bold Recommendations' on Human Rights in ROK

LD241202 Moscow TASS in English 1133 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tokyo February 24 TASS—By TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin:

The commission for the so-called "democratic reconciliation" set up under the South Korea Government has put forward in a surprise move bold recommendations, demanding that the authorities officially guarantee, in particular, the basic human rights, put an end to police arbitrary rule and recognize their responsibility for the bloody suppression of the popular uprising in the city of Kwangju in May 1980. These provisions are contained in the report, which that consultative body with the participation of representatives of public, submitted on Tuesday to retired General No Tae-u, who is to assume the powers of new president tomorrow.

The commission demanded from him in particular, that they issue a "declaration of human rights" in the political, economic and social field. It is to include provisions on putting an end to tortures and arbitrary actions by repressive organs. The powers of the Seoul secret police, the National Security Planning Agency, shall also be restricted, the recommendations say. The latter body is known to be responsible for the abduction and torture of opponents of the pro-American regime. The new president is also to guarantee that the Armed Forces no longer interfere in the political life of South Korea, where military regimes have been in power throughout all the past decades.

The commission described the cruel suppression of the popular uprising in Kwangju as part of the fight for democracy, albeit throughout all the recent years the authorities described it as "rioting of a bunch of extremists."

President-elect No Tae-u, the report says, should bring official apologies for the massacre in that city, establish precisely the number of peaceful inhabitants killed there and grant state pensions their families. At last the commission has called for a broad amnesty for the political prisoners.

It is unclear so far, how Seoul will react to such calls. Yet, according to the press, No Tae-u is planning to accept some of these demands to demonstrate preparedness for "improving the situation n the field of human rights in South Korea." Thus, in particular, the KYODO TSUSHIN agency said, twelve hundred political prisoners with the exception of persons accused of being associated with the "communists" are expected to be released there on March 1, together with almost 6,000 criminals.

DPRK Seeks 'Improvement' of Ties With U.S.

LD250529 Moscow TASS in English 0516 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 25 TASS—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has stated the Republic's readiness to resist the aggressive plans of the United States and its allies, and consistently to pursue the policy of peace.

He spoke here at a reception given on Wednesday on the occasion of the visit to the DPRK by a delegation of the Republic of Zambia led by President Kenneth Kaunda, the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reports.

The DPRK makes and will continue to make efforts to avert the threat of nuclear war, emphasized the Korean leader, pointing out the complexity of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

"Our party and government come out in favour of a peaceful solution to the 'Korean question'. This is evidenced by the DPRK's constructive proposals on the convocation of a joint meeting of the North and South of Korea and on an improvement of relations between the DPRK and the United States", he said.

Fisheries Minister on Japan Salmon Catch

OW251351 Tokyo KYODO in English 1223 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 25 KYODO—Soviet Fisheries Minister Nikolay Kotlyar, in reply to questions by KYODO news service, said Wednesday that the Soviet Union will shortly propose a new type of fishing to replace Japan's offshore salmon fishing in northern waters.

This was the first mention of such a proposal by the Soviet Union, which had repeatedly expressed its intention of totally banning Japan's salmon fishing off Soviet shores.

Kotlyar also expressed his hope that Japan will exercise restraint at bilateral fishery talks opening in Tokyo next Monday and pay due heed to the interests of the Soviet Union, a country of origin for anadromous salmon runs, on the basis of scientific data.

He said salmon runs in northern waters have not improved appreciably.

Japan's past payments to the Soviet Union to help restore the salmon resources were far from sufficient, he said.

His remarks are taken here as an indication that the Soviet Union will propose a sharp cut in Japan's salmon catch quota and a substantial increase in Japan's payment of "fishery cooperation funds" at the annual bilateral talks for fixing Japan's catch quota and regulatory measures on Japan's salmon fishing.

Kotlyar gave a written reply to KYODO's questions submitted prior to the start of the Tokyo talks.

Japan got a quota of 24,500 tons last year and paid 3.7 billion yen in cooperation funds are a price for continuing salmon fishing in northern waters. [as received]

Kotlyar also stressed there is no change in the Soviet intent to impose a total ban on offshore salmon fishing.

In this context, he said the Soviet Union is ready to discuss a new type of fishing to replce the offshore fishing. But he did not elaborate.

His remark is taken here as an indication that the Soviet Union will offer to allow Japanese fishing to some extent along Soviet shores in exchange for the establishment of fishery joint ventures and the Japanese payment of fishing fees.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly expressed its intention of prohibiting offshore salmon fishing since the adoption of the U.N. Law of the Sea providing for, among other things, the protection of the countries of origin of anadromous fishes, such as salmon.

Kotlyar showed a positive attitude toward joint Japan-Soviet fishery ventures as a means of opening a new vista for bilateral cooperation in fisheries.

But he complained that Japan maintains import restrictions that could obstruct future exports by proposed joint fishery ventures.

Kotlyar specifically charged that the Japanese Government has withheld permission for a joint fisheries processing venture, planned by Japan's Taiyo Fishery Co. and the Soviet authorities, for a year.

Correction to Japanese Arms Development Interest

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Japanese Industry Interested in Arms Development," published in the 24 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pages 19-20:

Page 19, column two, paragraph three, line seven: There is no room for doubt about the... (supplying words "no room for")

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Laos, Thailand End Border Talks in 'Unanimity'

LD252101 Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Vientiane February 25 TASS—Military delegations from Laos and Thailand ended talks here today on the issue of settling the border conflict between the two countries.

At a news conference held for nearly 100 foreign and Laotian correspondents, the delegation leaders said unanimity had been achieved during the talks on all the problems discussed, including measures to demarcate the borders between Laos and Thailand on the basis of the 1907 Franco-Siamese Treaty and corresponding topographic maps.

Both sides in their statements reaffirmed a desire to improve and strengthen relations between the Laotian and Thai people in the name of peace and security and for the purpose of preventing confrontation in the future.

The leader of the Laotian delegation, general of the Army Sisavat Keobounphan, presented the Thai side with two white doves as symbols of peace and friendship between the two neighboring nations.

Philippines Coalition Seeks U.S. Removal

LD261134 Moscow TASS in English 0955 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Manila February 26 TASS—TASS correspondent A. Kiselev reports:

An annual national conference of the Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Philippines, which started here today, is devoted to the campaign for eliminating U.S. military presence on the Philippine archipelago. The coalition is a mass organization uniting representatives of farmer, trade union, youth, women's organizations, academic quarters and the Catholic church.

Opening the forum, Bishop Antonino Nepomuseno, coalition chairman, called on all progressive forces of the country to pool efforts in the campaign against the presence of U.S. military bases threatening the country's sovereignty.

Speaking to the conference, Florencio Abad, a deputy to the Philippine National Assembly, said that most of the Philippine legislators were standing out more actively for strict observance of the anti-nuclear provisions of the Philippine constitution banning the use of the country's territory to station nuclear weapons. Florencio Abad pointed out that the bill introduced at parliament on launching in the country a broad campaign for explaining the population the threat of the U.S. bases for the nation's peaceful development had enjoyed broad support among legislators. Success of joint efforts of progressive forces coming out for curtailing the U.S. military presence on the Philippines when the term of operation of the American-Philippine agreement on the bases expires (1991), will largely depend on effectiveness of this campaign, noted the law-maker.

Further on Gromyko Message to S. Pacific Forum

PM251023 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 88 Second Edition p 1

[Gromyko message to South Pacific Forum on Rarotonga Treaty; date not given]

[Text] To the Heads of Member-States of the South Pacific Forum on the Soviet Union's Ratification of Protocols 2 and 3 to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Free Zone in the Southern Part of the Pacific Ocean (the Rarotonga Treaty).

The USSR consistently advocates the creation of zones free of nuclear weapons in various regions of the world. It regards them as one of the most important measures to reduce the threat of nuclear war, narrow the geographical sphere of nuclear preparations, strengthen the conditions for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and create a climate of trust and security at a regional level, which would doubtless contribute to the process of wiping nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. The Soviet program for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, which was proposed by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his statement of 15 January 1986, essentially envisages turning our entire planet into a nuclear-free zone. The USSR also believes that the creation of these zones is important from the standpoint of strengthening ecological security on a regional and a global scale. The decision of the South Pacific Forum states to create a nuclear-free zone in the southern part of the Pacific accords with these fundamental tasks of Soviet foreign policy activity.

In our opinion, accords on the creation of nuclear-free zones must correspond to the universally recognized norms of international law and guarantee reliable observance of their truly nonnuclear status. Proceeding from this principled stand, on 15 December 1986 the USSR signed protocols 2 and 3 to the Treaty on a Nuclear-free Zone in the Southern Part of the Pacific Ocean.

Wishing to contribute to increasing the viability of this zone's nuclear-free status and considering the wishes expressed by the signatories to the Rarotonga Treaty, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has ratified protocols 2 and 3 to the treaty, thereby stating the Soviet Union's intention to fully meet its pledges under these protocols.

Guided by the aforementioned aims, the Soviet Union expresses the hope that all member-states of the South Pacific Forum will join the Rarotonga Treaty and urges the nuclear powers which have not yet done so to act as guarantors of the Rarotonga Treaty by signing and ratifying the corresponding protocols.

A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Near East & South Asia

U.S. Officials Cited on Afghan Withdrawal

Shultz Without 'Slightest Doubt'

LD261422 Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Pavel Kuznetsov commentary]

[Text] On Wednesday, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost arrived in Pakistan to hold preparatory talks on peace negotiations on Afghanistan. Our observer Pavel Kuznetsov comments:

[Kuznetsov] Michael Armacost has had talks with the leaders of seven rebel groups known as the seven-party alliance. He was told that in the alliance there is resentment of a Soviet-American collusion or conspiracy. The rebel leaders and top Pakistani officials would like to have a transition government to be formed to, as they claim, maintain order before Soviet troops withdraw. The seven-party alliance has even announced a blueprint for such an interim administration that would include some people from the present Kabul government.

Now, what has the charge of a Soviet-American conspiracy to do with the views that are being aired publicly both by Pakistani officials and rebels to the effect that they favor a peaceful resolution of the conflict and do not seek any settling of old scores with Kabul? This question is all the more relevant since Moscow is absolutely serious about a pullout and also since, judging by reports from Washington, American officials are convinced that Moscow will indeed keep its word. Thus, for example, Secretary Shultz came away from meetings with Mikhail Gorbachev and Eduard Shevardnadze without the slightest doubt that Moscow's desire to pull out is genuine. So, why accuse Moscow and Washington of a collusion?

It looks like what rebel leaders dislike most about the United Nations-sponsored talks between Kabul and Islamabad is the provision for a simultaneous withdrawal of Soviet troops and a cut-off of American military aid to the rebels. But if the seven-party alliance has the popular support that it claims it has, its leaders don't have to worry about their future role in Afghanistan. According to some American officials and their aides, the demand for a transition government to be set up before the beginning of a Soviet withdrawal, slated for 15 May, is at best a clumsy effort to get a piece of political action by portraying the exiled groupings as a force that was shut out of the United Nations-sponsored talks without due consideration. At worst, the demand is a well calculated move to complicate matters. While in Moscow, George Shultz said at his news conference that the Afghan situation should be dealt with in such a way as to maximize the chances of this being a success.

Armacost Statement Criticized

LD261500 Moscow TASS in English 1432 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Duality and inconsistency in a political stand always puts one on one's guard, the more so as the point in question is such an exceptionally important issue as the elimination of the arduous and painful Afghan problem.

Only recently, it seemed, Pakistan was busy trying to convince everyone that the fixing of a timetable for a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was the main stumbling block on the way to a solution to the problem, including the question of return home of Afghan refugees who are now on Pakistani territory. Only recently it was repeatedly stated there that, as soon as such a timetable is fixed, the participants in the Pakistani-Afghan talks in Geneva would be able to make headway without delay.

Now that the elaboration of documents covering all aspects of a settlement has been practically completed in Geneva, and now that Moscow and Kabul by announcing an acceptable-to-everyone timetable for a withdrawal of Soviet troops opened the way for a speedy and successful completion of the Geneva process, Islamabad, in an abrupt zigzag, began to say that the main thing to Pakistan is not a withdrawal of Soviet troops but the formation of an interim government in Kabul, a government which would be 'trusted' by Afghan refugees.

A good deal has been written recently about how one should view the 'turn' in Pakistan's stand. A conclusion drawn by sober-minded analysts is unambiguous. Let us recall it once again: Attempts at artificially 'linking' the external and internal aspects of the Afghan problem and at making a successful completion of the Geneva process dependent on a highly complicated process of forming a coalition government in Afghanistan cannot lead to anything but an artificial dragging out of the Geneva talks. This would be at a time when, in the judgement of prominent political figures of various countries and organs of the press, every opportunity has been created for the present round of talks to become a final one.

It follows from Islamabad's statements that it would like not simply the formation of a coalition government in Afghanistan but a government the formation of which would be effected behind the back of Kabul—'under surveillance' if not under direct aegis of certain circles of Pakistan and other external forces. One cannot fail to pay attention to the fact that at a time when Islamabad is backing out of the already reached accord, the opposition which has entrenched itself in Peshawar has already announced the creation of the so-called comprehensive structure of a transitional government of Afghanistan. Islamabad does not spare efforts to provide propaganda and other support for the actions and aspirations of the opposition.

Michael Armacost, U.S. undersecretary of state, when visiting Pakistan, stated in connection with the opposition's actions that that was a fine idea.

A strange pronouncement, indeed. It is hardly needed to prove that the present Afghan Government, which is represented at the United Nations, in the Non-Aligned Movement and other international organizations, is the sole legitimate government of the Republic of Afghanistan. If this government, pursuing the National Reconciliation Policy, comes out in favour of sharing power and creating a cabinet on a coalition basis, this is an internal affair of the Afghan people and a purely intra-Afghan problem which should be tackled by the Afghans themselves and resolved, of course, in an exceptionally peaceful way through a broad all-Afghan dialogue.

"Only we Afghans, and not some external forces, have the right to determine to decide our future, including a form of a state set-up acceptable to all of us," emphasizes a just-issued statement of a spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As for the 'comprehensive structure' of a transitional government, hurriedly worked out by the 'alliance of seven', the action which was performed, judging by everything, not without 'promoting' from the outside, is none other than an attempt to torpedo the current national reconciliation process in Afghanistan. What, query, does Armacost see 'fine' in such kinds of attempts?

Let us hope, however, that Armacost's pronouncement reflects not more than his personal point of view. If the United States really wants a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, it should discontinue 'aid' to the military opposition when a withdrawal of Soviet troops begins.

And, returning to Islamabad's stand, one should say straightforwardly that, virtually, the Pakistanis—at least until now—have been steering matters to turning the Geneva process into a kind of hostage of conditions for creating in Afghanistan a government convenient to Pakistan, i.e. into an instrument for a continuation of its flagrant interference in the internal affairs of that sovereign state.

The following question, naturally, arises: What can explain the obviously non-constructive stand of Pakistan? An answer to this question can be found, for example, on the pages of the Italian PANORAMA magazine which, in an article headlined "Who Battens on the War in Afghanistan", writes that a huge portion—it is not ruled out that it accounts for more than 50 percent—of the colossal American military 'aid', which is funnelled from the outside to the anti-Afghan opposition, in this or that way winds up in the money boxes of the powers that be in Islamabad.

In order to untie the 'Afghan knot', one thing is required: to adhere to the existing accords by promoting an end to the conflict in forms which would rule out bloodshed and would secure the position of an independent, non-aligned and neutral state for Afghanistan. With this end in view, it is essential for the Afghans themselves to manage their affairs without any interference from the outside.

Afghan Foreign Ministry Denounces Opposition

LD252008 Moscow TASS in English 1941 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul February 25 TASS—Several days remain before the start of Geneva talks for settling the situation regarding Afghanistan, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by Kabul Radio today.

They have been preceded, it said, by a large amount of preparatory work to bring the sides' positions closer. An important role in this work has been played by Diego Cordovez, personal envoy of the U.N. secretary-general.

Drafting work on documents covering all aspects of a settlement has been practically completed. The Afghan people, tired of the many years of fratricidal war, are looking forward with impatience and hope to a successful conclusion of the Geneva process.

A settlement will not only improve the situation in the region, but also facilitate improvements in the international climate in general and yield valuable experience for settling other local conflicts as well.

But certain quarters in a number of countries, acting in the spirit of the old confrontation mentality, still demonstrate a stubborn unwillingness to look for peaceful ways of resolving difficult international issues.

They put their own selfish interests before the interests of peace and the security of other nations. It is apparently in this way that one should interpret attempts mounted by the Pakistani leadership even before the start of the Geneva talks to throw up artificial obstacles and thwart the attainment of final agreements at the talks.

The signature of the Geneva agreements is being linked, in particular, to the issue of forming a transitional Afghan Government.

The same unseemly goal is being served by the frantic activity of the leaders of the Peshawar-based opposition to create a so-called "comprehensive structure for a transitional government of Afghanistan", although it is common knowledge that there is only one lawful government of Afghanistan, which is recognized by more than 80 countries and represented at the United Nations, in the Non-Aligned Movement and in many international organizations.

The National Reconciliation Policy and efforts by the country's leadership to achieve a nationwide peace are supported by the population of the whole of Afghanistan. On whose behalf will the "transitional government", which is allegedly being formed in Pakistani territory, be acting then?

The success of the Geneva talks is being anticipated by millions of Afghans, the people of neighboring countries and peace-loving humankind. As far as national reconciliation and the creation of a coalition government are concerned, they are, as the Afghan leadership has repeatedly declared, a matter for the Afghan people themselves to decide. It is only the Afghan people themselves rather than any outside forces that have the right to decide their destiny, including the form of a state system suiting them all.

The Afghan side will apply every effort to normalize the situation in Afghanistan and around it, acting in unfailing compliance with the statement by President Najibullah of February 8, 1988, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said.

Official sees Afghan Bloodbath as 'Real Danger'

AU260836 Paris AFP in English 2233 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, Feb 25 (AFP)—A bloodbath in Afghanistan is a real danger after the withdrawal of Soviet troops, a senior Soviet official said here Thursday. The official, who spoke on condition that he was not identified and not quoted directly, said that a suggested 50-man U.N. observer team would not be able to prevent bloodshed, and Moscow would support the dispatch of a U.N. peacekeeping force.

Last December, the leader of the Soviet-backed Communist leadership in Afghanistan, Major-General Najibullah, told Western reporters in Kabul that he was opposed to a U.N. force. But the official suggested Kabul's position had changed since a visit there last month by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The official made his comments as diplomatic consultations on Afghanistan were stepped up involving India and Pakistan, and after Afghan rebels announced the formation of a resistance government. U.N.-sponsored Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan resume next week.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has pledged to withdraw the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan beginning over a 10-month period from May 15 if an agreement is signed in Geneva by mid-March.

The official accepted that Moscow had been slow to recognise it had misread the situation in Afghanistan when Soviet forces were sent into the country in December 1979, and to see changes subsequently. He said Mr. Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, initially hailed by Soviet authorities as a genuine proletarian grouping, was in fact largely made up of city-based intellectuals in a country with an overwhelmingly rural population.

Moscow was encouraged by strong signs that commanders of the Muslim rebels operating inside Afghanistan were more ready for negotiations than the seven-party alliance of Afghan exile groups based in Pakistan who appeared to want a fight to the death, the official said.

The official, discussing other aspects of Soviet foreign policy, also announced that an unspecified number of Soviet troops had recently been removed from the once-tense border with China. But he gave no further details. China has said that the heavy Soviet troops presence along the border and the Red Army's invasion of Afghanistan were two of the three obstacles in the way of better relations with Moscow. The third is Soviet support for Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

Divided Loyalities of Afghan, Pakistani Pashtuns

LD252315 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1540 GMT 25 Feb 88

[From "The World Today" program presented by Dmitriy Biryukov; video report from Afghanistan by "special correspondent" Stanislav Tarasov]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We are only a few meters from the Pakistani border. We are at the border point of Towr Kham situated on the so-called Durand Line. The Afghan-Pakistani border passes here. Living as they do on the border between two states, the Pashtun tribes have become involved in the events taking places in these countries.

Reforms by the popular authorities in Afghanistan have brought many positive things to the lives of the Pashtun tribes. In the border area a program for water supply is being carried out and a dam is being built. Trade is encouraged in these parts, schools and hospitals are being opened. Afghanistan's pesent laws have given the Pashtun tribes, along with freedom of religion, broad rights to self-government within the framework of the Afghan state.

What is the position of the Pashtun tribes which live on the territory of Pakistan? The border areas of that state have long become a bridgehead from which, with the help of the West, an undeclared war against Afghanistan is being waged. It is there that the camps of counterrevolutionary gangs and formations are based. It is from there that pack animal trains bringing the most modern Western arms are regularly dispatched into Afghanistan. [video shows men in fatigues unpacking hand-held missiles from cardboard boxes. One of the Stingers bears the inscription, "lot no (?g)dp84k001-322/serial no 3642(?9)0/18876 11487821/missile round"] These Stingers were seized when one of the pack animal trains was being searched. All this is aimed at destabilizing the situation in Afghanistan and at undermining the National Reconciliation Policy.

I was told this by (Sahargol), an elder of the Mohmand tribe, who only recently was in Pakistan himself. He said that as a result of illiteracy and backwardness the Pashtuns in Afghanistan [as heard] still continue to believe Western propaganda and the leaders of opposition parties. Despite the declared National Reconciliation Policy, he continued, some of the tribes have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. I asked him how the Pashtuns who live on Afghan territory have reacted to this. We are working to explain things to our fellow tribesmen, he replied. Recently, for instance, we sent letters to the ringleaders of gangs and groupings, appealing to them to halt their fratricidal war.

The Pashtun tribes are also setting up their own armed battalions in order to be able to give a fitting reception to unwelcome guests, should the need arise. These battalions also guard their own territories. Evidently time is needed for the Pashtun tribes that live in Pakistan to grasp definitively the events currently taking place in Afghanistan and to learn to tell friends from enemies. Only then will the border between the two neighboring states, Afghanistan and Pakistan, become a border of peace and good-neighborly cooperation.

Arab States Reported To Support Afghanistan

LD261220 Moscow TASS in English 1133 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul February 26 TASS—TASS Correspondent Andrey Semenov writes:

The recent visit of 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, to Kuwait, Libya, Syria and Jordan demonstrates the growing authority of Afghanistan in the Muslim world on the whole and in Arab states, in particular. The outcome of the visit shows that an increasingly larger number of leaders of Muslim states give support to the Afghan Government which takes real steps towards ending one of the most complicated conflicts in the region. Hence, in the interest in developing ties with the young republic, the warm welcome accorded to the Afghan delegation during its visits.

The Afghan foreign minister told BAKHTAR news agency that his trip through several Arab states set the beginning to the new stage on the road towards boosting and strengthening Afghanistan's relations with such countries as, among others, Kuwait and Jordan. Such a state of affairs gives the lie to the claims by some countries that Afghanistan will have to run up against restrictions in its foreign political relations, he noted.

Despite the statements by Western "specialists on Afghanistan" who keep alleging that the republic's government is unable to establish peace and tranquility in the country, sensible politicians in the Arab East realize that these conclusions are totally ungrounded. Simultaneously, they are aware of the entire complexity of the situation inside Afghanistan.

The National Reconciliation Policy enacted by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) has already yielded tangible results. About 120,000 refugees returned to the homeland and more than 40,000 members of the armed formations downed arms. The PDPA announced the transition to the multi-party principle and offered to the warring side a considerable number of posts in the coalition government. The Afghan leadership exerts every effort to end the fratricidal war within the shortest possible time. However, the leadership of the alliance of the seven has not responded positively to these proposals as yet. It rejects the idea of the compromise, considering it to be unacceptable for itself.

In his speech at the Loya Jirgah session in Kabul late in November, 1987 President Najibullah said that compromise meant pooling the efforts of various socio-political forces in the name of noble goals and tasks rather than giving up one's positions.

We hope that the honest and principled policy of the Afghan Government with its genuine respect for Islam will bring in the camp of its supporters all sensible politicians and leaders of Muslim countries.

Polyakov on Israeli Visit, Higgins Seizure

PM261255 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 5

[A. Kuvshinnikov report: "At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center: The Near East. Path to a Settlement"]

[Excerpts] The present situation in the Near East, particularly with regard to the mass protests in the occupied Arab territories, demonstrates the need for the earliest attainment of a Near East settlement by convening an international conference.

That is the opinion of the leaders of a number of Arab countries as expressed to V. Polyakov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration, during his recent trip to Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE: What has caused the arrival of a group of Israeli experts in the USSR to be delayed? Is it to do with the Soviet condemnation of Israel's policy in the occupied territories?

"Representatives of the Soviet and Israeli foreign ministries met in Helsinki," V. Polyakov answered. "An accord was reached on a visit to the USSR by a group of two or three people. We have not raised the question of the timing of the visit yet. Perhaps for the Israeli side this is in some way linked to the situation in the occupied territories."

IZVESTIYA: In view of the abduction of a U.S. military serviceman, Lieutenant Colonel Higgins, in Lebanon, has the United States asked the USSR, in its capacity as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to help in securing his release?

"As far as I know, no request of that kind has been received. It seems to me that the Americans have fairly extensive contacts in all the Arab countries and with virtually all political organizations, which enable them to act independently on this matter."

Reagan Statement on Palestinians Viewed

LD252210 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1455 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (TASS)—TASS commentator Grigoriy Vasilyev writes:

The Associated Press has reported that the U.S. Administration allegedly possesses information indicating that the unrest on the occupied West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza sector was organized by "suspected terrorists infiltrated from outside." The agency refers to a statement by President Reagan at a news conference broadcast on national television.

One's attention is drawn to the fact that this statement was made on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's visit to the Near East. The Arab press has frequently pointed out that saving Israel has been the principal task for U.S. emissaries visiting the Near East since the Palestinian popular uprising of unprecedented scale flared up in the occupied territories. This is the purpose—to support its strategic partner in the anti-Arab alliance—of Washington's urgently proposed "new Near East initiative." In reality, however, as was shown in particular by the trip by Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for the Near East and Southern Asia, it turns out to be just a slightly touched-up version of the separate Camp David deal rejected by the Arabs. It is obvious that the story of "terrorists from outside" has been brought out in the context of these unseemly endeavors by Washington.

The course of events shows that the mighty uprising by the Palestinian Arabs is a direct consequence of more than 20 years of Israeli occupation, of the oppression, suffering, and deprivation that have become the lot of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. Over the years of occupation, one in three Palestinians has spent some time in Israeli torture chambers, thousands of Palestinian homes have been pulled down, and more than 60 percent of the productive land in the West Bank has been confiscated under various and patently bogus pretexts. The inhabitants of the Palestinian refugee camps have ended up in unbelievably difficult conditions, deprived of work, medical assistance, and social insurance. The Palestinians who have succeeded in finding work in Israel are subjected to the most brutal exploitation.

The present Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, in which representatives from all strata of the population are participating, is an insistent appeal and demand that a search be made for a rapid and just solution to the Palestinian problem, which forms the core of the dangerous and protracted Near East conflict.

Supreme Soviet Ratifies Treaty With Syria

LD261431 Moscow TASS in English 1205 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—It has been made public here that the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet ratified by its decree of February 23, 1988 an agreement between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on economic and technical cooperation in building the Tishrin hydropower scheme, signed in Damascus on June 18, 1987.

Reportage on Kuwaiti National Day Celebrations

Envoy Gives TV Address

LD261027 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Feb 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; National Day address by 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj, Kuwaiti ambassador to the Soviet Union, in the studio—recorded in Arabic with superimposed Russian translation]

[Text] Esteemed friends: Special relations exist between us and the Soviet Union which have been tested by time and which are based upon mutual trust. On 11 March it will be a quarter of a century since diplomatic relations were established between Kuwait and the Soviet Union. Constant contacts are going on between our leaders. Their views coincide on many questions which concern both bilateral relations and relations with other countries.

Our people are following with great attention the major changes in Soviet society, the policy of perestroyka and glasnost aimed at creating a better society, and we wish the friendly Soviet people successes and the achievement of their aspirations.

Kuwait welcomes Mikhail Gorbachev's latest initiative on Afghanistan aimed at resolving this problem. We in Kuwait implore God to bless this step and wish success to Mikhail Gorbachev, a champion of peace.

The peace-loving Kuwaiti people wish our region to become, as before, a zone of peace and stability. We therefore hope for a cessation of the war, which is now in its 8th year, between Kuwait's neighbors, Iraq and Iran.

Our people believe that the international community, in the form of the United Nations and the Security Council, should urgently undertake decisive measures to bring this war to an end and requests the friendly Soviet leadership to redouble its efforts to achieve this goal. In doing so, we take into account the weighty role played by the Soviet Union in the international arena.

What is taking place in the occupied territories, the acts of violence and the murder of innocent Palestinians, remind us and many of you, esteemed television viewers, of similar Nazi actions. The international mass media give wide coverage on the television screens and on the pages of the newspapers to the acts of vandalism and repression by the Israeli occupiers. The popular uprising, which is now in its 3d month, has proved that the Palestinian people will never submit to the occupation and will continue its just struggle until victory. Kuwait supports this struggle in every possible way. There is no Arab unity without Palestine.

Accept our greetings and the very best wishes from the Kuwaiti people.

Official Praises Ties

LD261045 Kuwait KUNA in English 0825 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Moscow, Feb 26 (KUNA)—Kuwait's ambassador to the Soviet Union 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj has called on the Soviet Union to use its international leverage to speed up the efforts toward an end to the Iraq-Iran war. Al-Du'ayj, who was speaking on the Soviet television last night on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of Kuwait's national day, said the Gulf region should be an area of peace and stability. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, president of Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Arab countries Mikhail Kondakov said "Kuwait's consistent policy of positive neutrality earned it respect of many countries." He added at a function devoted to the Kuwaiti National Day that Kuwait's foreign policy course is based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, support for the peoples right to independent development. Kondakov further noted that bilateral ties between the Soviet Union and Kuwait develop in various areas under the principles of equality, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual interests.

Al-Du'ayj who also spoke at the function said the Kuwaiti-Soviet relations set an example of constructive cooperation and real friendship between the two countries. The ambassador also said these relations develop and deepen to the benefits of the two peoples and added that it can be said that they stood the test of time and entered the stage of confidence.

Bangladesh President Receives Gorbachev Message
LD252311 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1554 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Dhaka, 25 Feb (TASS)—Today Hussain Mohammad Ershad, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, received Viktor Popov, special representative of the Soviet leadership. A verbal message on Afghanistan from M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was conveyed at the meeting. During the conversation, President H.M. Ershad expressed profound satisfaction with the stand taken by the Soviet leadership with respect to the settlement of the Afghan problem. He noted that the Afghan people themselves should resolve the issue of their government by means of negotiations. The president emphasized that he completely shares the opinion expressed in the message that the settlement of the Afghan problem would have a positive effect on other regional conflicts. He expressed the opinion that, taking into account recent events, the USSR and Bangladesh are taking similar stands with regard to the solution of the Afghan problem.

Tamil 'Guerrillas' Compared to Contras
BK251356 Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Colombo, Feb 25 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas are like the Nicaraguan Contras and should be wiped out politically, a senior Soviet official said here Thursday.

"Their actions induce me to compare them with the Contras (fighting the leftist Sandinista regime)," Yuriy Vinogradov, deputy head of the Soviet Union's South Asia Department [as received], said. Guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) indiscriminately kill innocent people "and they should be wiped out politically," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Mr. Vinogradov, who on Thursday ended a five-day visit to Colombo, accused the LTTE of attempting to dismember Sri Lanka, which he described as "a nonaligned, independent and peaceful country."

The Soviet Union has supported the 1987 Indo-Soviet [as received] peace accord aimed at ending the island's ethnic conflict.

Mr. Vinogradov, 55, said the Indian military deployment in Sri Lanka could not be compared with the U.S. role in Vietnam. "Indian soldiers are playing a political role. They have come invited, like the Soviet troops in Afghanistan," he added. He alleged that foreign forces whom he refused to identify were backing the LTTE, which is now fighting an estimated 50,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka's north and east.

The Soviet official said Tamil rebel groups which have accepted the peace pact and are joining the political mainstream were doing the "right thing".

Mr. Vingoradov, however, refused to speak about the outlawed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), a Sinhalese extremist group also opposed to the accord, saying he did not want to comment on the "internal affairs of Sri Lanka."

East Europe

Further on Soviet Missile Withdrawal From GDR

Honecker: Turn for the Better
LD252314 Moscow TASS in English 2221 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin February 25 TASS—Much indicates to a turn for the better in the international situation, the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles is already at the stage of ratification, said Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee, chairman of the GDR Council of State. He was addressing today the workers of the artificial fibre factory in Premnitz (Potsdam district).

The GDR, he continued, favours a nuclear-free world and lasting peace. We centre our efforts on that and make our contribution to that. This is seen from the withdrawal of shorter-range missiles from our territory which started today on agreement with the Soviet Union. Peace is humanity's greatest boon, and the disarmament process is truly vital. It should be carried on without procrastination, Erich Honecker emphasized.

PZPR: 'Exceptional' Significance
LD251828 Moscow TASS in English 1802 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw February 25 TASS—A Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman has stressed the exceptional significance of the Soviet Union's started withdrawal of its shorter-range OTR-22 missiles as a gesture of goodwill.

He noted at a news conference that the Soviet Union was withdrawing the missiles by prior agreement with its allies and even before the ratification of the INF Treaty.

Thereby, the Soviet Union was demonstrating appreciable consistency in honoring all its promises and providing evidence that the apprenensions sometimes expressed in the West about Soviet intentions in the field of disarmament were utterly groundless, the spokesman continued.

By displaying a new approach to international problems, the Soviet Union had demonstrated once again that its plans and the accords it signed should be treated seriously and trusted, he said.

Krolikowski: Real Step

PM251521 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Interview with Herbert Krolikowski, GDR first deputy foreign minister, conducted in Berlin by own correspondent V. Lapskiy under the heading "The GDR: Gesture of Good Will"; date not given—first two paragraphs and last three paragraphs are introduction and concluding report]

[Text] The Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles is currently the main topic in the central GDR newspapers. The republic is one of the nine countries directly affected by the treaty. The GDR-U.S. agreement on conducting inspections in GDR territory is directly connected with this.

I talked to Herbert Krolikowski, GDR first deputy foreign minister.

[Lapskiy] What contribution did the republic make to the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles signed in Washington?

[Krolikowski] The double "zero option" accords with our country's interest in the adoption of real measures designed to eliminate the vast stockpiles of weapons in Europe, particularly in its central part. We have fully supported the Soviet Union's constructive, flexible policy in this matter by actively participating in the development of the Warsaw Pact's general strategy and by pursuing our own energetic policy of dialogue with Western countries. In personal correspondence and official conversations with leading West European politicians, Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary, and Oskar Fischer, foreign minister, substantiated the usefulness and necessity of a first real step on the way to broad disarmament. I would particularly like to mention the message sent by Erich Honecker to FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, his talks and conversations during his visit to the FRG, and his appeal for the two German states—each in its own military bloc—to do everything possible to ensure that the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles comes into force at the earliest possible date.

The GDR spoke out unequivocally in favor of countermeasures being taken in response to the stationing of U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe. On reaching an accord with the Soviet Union, however, it pledged to take reciprocal measures in the event of the U.S. intermediate-range missiles being eliminated and immediately fulfilled the conditions stipulated as necessary for the implementation of the treaty. I would also like to mention the proposals from the GDR and the CSSR to the FRG Government to create a nuclear-free corridor and a zone free of chemical weapons in the territory of the three countries. These examples show that our foreign policy is geared to broadly and purposefully putting the new thinking into practice.

[Lapskiy] Which steps does the GDR think should be taken first in this direction?

[Krolikowski] There is no doubt the ratification and enforcement of the signed treaty must be the most immediate decisive step to take. This is the only way we can progress in the direction discussed at the Washington summit meeting: first and foremost, a 50-percent reduction in Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive weapons while strictly adhering to the ABM Treaty. This agreement would have enormous significance for improving international relations, strengthening trust, and enhancing the dynamics of the disarmament process. The immediate implementation of the Washington treaty would help to establish the effectiveness of the verification mechanism and build up experience for disarmament in other spheres. I am thinking of a complete end to nuclear tests, the banning and elimination of chemical weapons, and extensive measures for further nuclear disarmament and sharp reductions in conventional weapons.

We are concerned, however, by the fact that influential circles in NATO are openly trying to impede the ratification of the treaty and compensate for the planned elimination of an entire class of weapons in other military spheres. Consequently, it is extremely important to maintain momentum in the disarmament process that has begun and move determinedly along this path.

Berlin newspapers have recently begun to carry reports and photographs taken close to the city of Waren. Our soldiers are packing missiles into enormous "pencil cases" before dispatching them to the Soviet Union. Soon they will be loaded onto the special flatcars of a train which does not yet feature on the GDR railroad timetable. They are the first of the total 2,611 Soviet and U.S. missiles with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers due to be eliminated.

It was the joint decision of the governments of these three countries—the USSR, GDR, and CSSR—to dismantle the missiles without waiting for the treaty to be officially ratified. This is being done earlier than the date originally agreed. It is a gesture of good will attesting to the sincerity and seriousness of our intentions.

The stationing of these nuclear weapons several years ago was received with understanding, as a countermeasure and a sign of concern for security, but now people are pleased that it has been agreed to dismantle these weapons and also to eliminate the U.S. missiles pointing at the GDR.

Morozov Interviewed on Belgrade Conference

AU241551 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 22 Feb 88 p 3

[Interview with Colonel Vasiliy Morozov, NOVOSTI observer on military-political questions, by Vasil Asparukhov, OTECHESTVEN FRONT correspondent in Moscow: "Important Role in the Destinies of Mankind"; date not given—first paragraph is OTECHESTVEN FRONT introduction]

[Text] In connection with the forthcoming meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs from the Balkan countries which will focus on problems of security and cooperation, Vasil Asparukhov, our Moscow correspondent, interviewed Colonel Vasiliy Morozov, observer on military-political questions for the NOVOSTI news agency and winner of the USSR State Prize.

[Asparukhov] May I ask you to deal first with the role of the Balkans in the present-day sociopolitical life on a global scale. Can you map out the position of the Balkans in the struggle for the preservation of strategic security in the world?

[Morozov] At first glance, it seems we know everything about the Balkans. At the same time, however, we continue to discover an increasing number of new aspects in the history of the Balkan peninsula, as well as in its present situation.

To understand the Balkans' importance in the military sector, we should go back in history. We will remember that during the period of World War II Hitler conducted an entire military campaign in that area, in the spring of 1941. Before attacking the USSR he needed a strategic training ground, such as the Balkan peninsula. We should not forget, either, that a famous Balkan strategy professed by Churchill, was propagated in England throughout World War II.

The Balkan peninsula today is inhabited by the peoples of highly developed industrialized countries, which belong to the two military-political blocks. Some of them are directly situated on the shores of the Mediterranean where the interests of numerous states intersect. The southern flanks of the Warsaw Pact and NATO are also facing each other in this area.

[Asparukhov] Vasiliy Pavlovich, can you describe what the contribution of the Balkan peoples to the consolidation of their own and of worldwide security should be?

[Morozov] In my opinion the proposal submitted by these countries to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans is of exceptionally great importance. In addition to this, I cannot help expressing my high appreciation for the joint Bulgarian-Romanian proposal on the establishment of a zone free of chemical weapons in the Balkans. These steps are likely to consolidate the system of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

It is a well-known fact that the socialist Warsaw Pact member-states also launched the idea on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans. In this context we must undoubtedly stress that the states which do not have any nuclear weapons need legal guarantees. The USSR has adopted an unmistakable stand on this question—it is ready to respect their non-nuclear status. The position of the United States and of their NATO allies represents a serious obstacle to the liberation of this large area from mass destruction weapons. They think this is premature. The truth is that such zones are in contradiction with their concepts of block systems for flexible response and their doctrine of nuclear deterrence.

[Asparukhov] Let me ask you one last question: How should the meeting of the foreign affairs' ministers from the Balkan countries be evaluated?

[Morozov] In my opinion one of the questions expected to be discussed will be connected with the establishment of nuclear-free zones and zones free of chemical weapons in that area.

SFRY's Mamula Meets With Yazov in Moscow

LD221419 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1345 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, 22 Feb (TANJUG)—Admiral of the Fleet Branko Mamula, national defense federal secretary, had a meeting in Moscow today with Army General Dmitriy Yazov, USSR defense minister. Mamula, who is in Moscow leading a delegation of the Yugoslav Armed Forces attending the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the formation and development of the Soviet Army, congratulated Yazov on the anniversary and conveyed to him cordial greetings on behalf of the Yugoslav People's Army.

The delegation of the SFRY Armed Forces this morning visited the Museum of the USSR Armed Forces and was briefed on the exhibits and documents which speak of the 70 years of history of the Soviet Army.

In the afternoon the federal secretary for national defense and members of the delegation attended a gala function marking the 70th anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces. The function was held in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses.

Bulgarian-Soviet Alliance Has 'Deep Roots'

AU252009 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 23 Feb 88 pp 1,3

[Article by USSR Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, head of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces and USSR first deputy minister of defense: "Infinitely Loyal to the Ideals of Communism;" "especially written for NARODNA ARMIYA and dispatched through NOVOSTI"]

[Text] The combat alliance of the fraternal armies strengthens every year. Military cooperation among the socialist states became a tight and reliable system, which is being implemented on a multilateral basis and is constantly improving, with a view toward fulfilling the defensive tasks posed to the allied armies, as well as the policy of the communist and workers' parties, under the specific conditions.

Fraternal cooperation between the USSR and the People's Republic of Bulgaria and between the USSR Armed Forces and the Bulgarian People's Army is also developing and strengthening on this basis. Combat friendship and indestructible fraternity between our peoples and armies have deep historical roots. They have manifested themselves in the past throughout the centuries in the actions of the Russian and Bulgarian peoples, and the Russian troops and Bulgarian fighters in liberating the Bulgarian people from a foreign yoke.

Indestructible friendship between the USSR and Bulgarian peoples developed with special force during the years of World War II and the joint struggle against fascism. After the attack of fascist Germany against the USSR, the BCP led by the great son of the Bulgarian people, Georgi Dimitrov, developed an active struggle against the reactionary regime and the Hitlerite occupiers, who were then in power. The Fatherland Front, which was created at the initiative of the Bulgarian Communists, united in its ranks all patriotic and international forces. The Bulgarian partisans opened an internal front of armed struggle against the Hitlerite occupiers and the ruling clique of traitors and renegades.

Thousands of Bulgarians fought in the ranks of the Soviet Armed Forces during the years of the Great Patriotic War: Zakhari Zakhariev, Avgust Kabakchiev, Petur Panchevski, and Khristo Pakov, who later became generals and the glorious daughter of the Bulgarian people Polina Nedyalkova. Colonel Ivan Vinarov became a commissar and later the commander of the International Regiment, which fought on the outskirts of Moscow. The Soviet people will never forget the courageous sapper, Ognyan Naydov, and the other Bulgarian patriots who fell at the walls of the Soviet capital. Ivan Mikhaylov Popov, later a general of the Bulgarian People's Army, Colonel Ivan Kinov, and others trained military cadres at the military establishments of the USSR Armed Forces.

The Bulgarian partisans Shteryu Atanasov, Dobri Dimitrov, Liliya Karastoyanova, and hundreds of other internationalists gloriously fought with the partisan units in Belorussia, the Ukraine, and Moldavia. They all contributed to our common victory.

The defeat of the Hitlerite troops' southern formations by the Soviet Armed Forces in the course of the Iasi-Kishinev campaign in August-September 1944, and the arrival of the Soviet Army at the Bulgarian northern border, coincided in time with the nationwide September armed uprising in Bulgaria, which toppled the antipopular monarchist regime and prompted the establishment of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

From October 1944 to May 1945 the Bulgarian People's Army, together with the Soviet Army and acting within the framework of the Third Ukrainian Front, took an active role in defeating the Hitlerite-fascist troops in Yugoslavia, Hungary, and Austria, and successfully conducted combat actions in the Belgrade, Budapest, Vienna, Balaton, and other major operations.

Hundreds of Bulgarian soldiers were decorated with Soviet orders on their bravery and combat heroics, while 120,000 received the "Victory Over Germany in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945" Medal.

Cooperation between the armies of our countries constantly developed and strengthened during the postwar years. Each side made its contribution to the common cause—strengthening the socialist countries' system of collective security. The defense of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is reliably guaranteed not only by its Army, but also by the armed forces of the socialist community. The Soviet Armed Forces and the troops of all Warsaw Pact member states are ready to defend the achievements of the Bulgarian people against any aggression, and will defend Bulgaria's security, as well as the security of their own countries. We are all convinced the Bulgarian People's Army will act in the same manner.

The new political thinking, the fundamental conclusions related to the basic trends of the development of the military-political situation, drawn by the political leadership of our defensive alliance, the new approaches toward the issues of war and peace, and guaranteeing national and international security in the nuclear century now form the basis of improving and developing the defensive policy of the allied socialist states.

For the first time in history the Great October broke away from the obsolete notions of the inevitability of militarism and violence in the world. This became even more obvious in the modern era. With the development of socialism and strengthening its world role preconditions were created for new qualitative transformations in the essence of social relations, and for limiting, and in the final account, totally eliminating oppressive mechanisms in developing the social processes.

The world war stopped being a means of achieving political goals in the nuclear-space century. The manner of thinking and acting on the basis of the concept of military force is inadmissible today. The continuation of the arms race is pointless and extremely dangerous.

Disputed problems, even the most acute and difficult ones, can and must be solved at the negotiation table. Guaranteeing security is increasingly becoming a political task, which can be solved only by political means—this conclusion was drawn by the 27th CPSU Congress. Understanding this and grasping the necessity to relinquish war and policy from the position of force in international relations—this is the essence of the new political thinking of our fraternal parties. It is time that the leading NATO states, and first of all the United States, understood that. There are certain changes in their thinking. The signing of the INF Treaty in December 1987 proves this. These changes, however unfortunately, are very slow.

The USSR and Warsaw Pact member states oppose the arms race, which leads to undermining international security and an unpredictable balancing act on the brink of war. We call upon all countries to relinquish obsolete views, overcome the theory and practice of the "nuclear threat," and eliminate the mutual suspicion, which has accumulated during the years, and thus reach a better understanding of each other's worries and intentions. The document adopted in May 1987 at the Berlin meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact member states, which clearly defined the defensive character of their military doctrine, is proof of this approach and of the concrete application of these principles in the military area. All Warsaw Pact member states univocally confirmed they will never, under any circumstances, be the first to begin military actions against any state or allied states, if they themselves do not become the target of an armed attack. They have no territorial claims to any state in Europe or outside the borders of the continent. They consider no state or people to be their enemy. On the contrary, they are prepared to construct their relations with all countries, without any exception, on the basis of a mutual respect for security and peaceful coexistence. The USSR will never be the first to use nuclear weapons.

These exceptionally important military-political premises determine the defensive character of the tasks of the USSR and the other socialist states, as well as the manner of their implementation, and are turned into the decisive factors which determine both the content of the uniform military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact, and the national military doctrines of every member state of this organization.

The military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact member states is subordinate to the main task of our time—preventing both conventional and nuclear war. It determines a complex of political and defensive measures, which must prevent war and not allow aggressors, who strive to gain real or imaginary advantages or harbor the illusory hope of achieving a victory, to kindle a war. In other words, our military doctrine aims are against war preparations and are in support of strengthening the foundations of international security.

We must say that this frank postulate and this premise of the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact member states, have been worked out in detail only in recent years. Naturally, in the past the military activity of the USSR and the other socialist states envisaged a struggle against war. Now, however, this is not only a task of our policy, but also a task of our military strategy. It obtained a complete theoretical foundation and is being implemented in practice.

Simultaneously, our military doctrine envisages the solution of another very important task, connected with the reliable defense of socialism, in case an aggressor nevertheless decides to initiate a war. Our doctrine precisely defines the political measures and the character of our responsive measures. They must ensure a constant high readiness on the part of our countries and their armed forces, to repel the aggression and the means of conducting an armed struggle for the defense of socialism. Our armed forces must be kept in the necessary combat readiness, to prevent any surprise. In case of an attack against them, despite all this, they will deal a crushing blow to the aggressor.

The construction and training of the USSR Armed Forces is being implemented today on the basis of the principle of defensive sufficiency. We do not strive toward military superiority and will not allow military superiority to be achieved over us. The Armed Forces personnel and the quantity and quality of our arms are strictly commensurate with the scope of the military threat, and are determined by nothing more than the real needs of our reliable defense.

Simultaneously, it is clear the limits of our defensive sufficiency are being determined by us alone. These limits depend to a decisive degree on the balance of power which has been imposed, and the character of imperialism's military preparations. The training and use of the USSR Armed Forces, as well as of all the other of the socialist community's armed forces, are based on their ability to prevent, and if necessary, repel surprising strikes of the aggressor or any other attack, through active defensive actions. This does not mean, however, that in case of an aggressive act our Army and Navy will only passively deflect the attacks. If the aggressor kindles a war, he must know he will not escape retribution. A crucial responsive blow awaits him in case of aggression.

The Soviet Armed Forces dispose of all necessary means of solving this task, and have modern means of conducting war, efficient weapon systems, and combat equipment. The well-trained personnel—soldiers and sailors, sergeants and petty officers, officers, generals, and admirals—infinitely loyal to the CPSU and the socialist motherland, are the basis of their military power. They have high ideological character, broad political point of view, good organization, and the necessary professional training and discipline. The blood relation to and indestructible unity with the people are the eternal sources of the combat power of our armed forces.

Now the USSR Armed Forces, as well as the entire country, are subject to restructuring. In this context, issues related to increasing the cadres' responsibility, improving the care for man, activating the human factor, solving the problems of the statute organization of army life, and strengthening glasnost, come to the forefront. It is on this basis that we improve the combat readiness and ability of the Army and Navy, and enhance their moral-combat qualities.

Created by October the USSR Armed Forces, together with the armed forces of the fraternal socialist countries are implementing their historical mission in defense of socialism and peace throughout the world. They are always alert and ready to worthily implement their tasks, being closely rallied around the CPSU and infinitely loyal to the lofty ideals of communism.

Dobrynin Meets Bulgarian Parliamentarian

PM261225 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversation at the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] CPSU Central Committee Secretary A.F. Dobrynin has met with P. Vutov, chairman of a parliamentary group ffrom the Bulgarian National Assembly. An exchange of views took place on questions of the further expansion of cooperation between Soviet and Bulgarian parliamentary groups.

G. Pankov, Bulgarian ambassador to the USSR, took part in the conversation, which passed in a friendly atmosphere.

CPCZ's Jakes Views February Victory Jubilee

PM251241 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 88 Second Edition p 5

[Article by Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committeee general secretary: "A Lesson for Today and the Future"]

[Text] Prague, Feb—Forty years ago, 25 February 1948, the many years of struggle against capitalism by the Czechoslovak working people, led by the Communist Party, ended in victory and the basic political conditions were created for the socialist development of our country.

The Czechoslovak working people's February victory over bourgeois reaction contributed to the development of the world revolutionary process and was an important link in the chain of revolutionary changes initiated 70 years ago by Great October. The force of Leninist ideas and the Soviet example exerted a tremendous influence on the creation of the independent Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 and the process of the consolidation of class consciousness of the working class and all the working people which led to the formation of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in May 1921.

The main essence of the party's activity was the realization of the Czechoslovak working people's hopes and aspirations concerning social justice. Czechoslovak Communists regarded the struggle against fascism as a means of not just national but also social liberation. The historical role of the party in the elimination of capitalist exploitation and in the national liberation struggle and also the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the glorious Soviet Army were the main factors which paved the way for the establishment of socialism in our country during the postwar period.

In the conditions of postwar Czechoslovakia, the CPCZ creatively applied the Marxist-Leninist teaching about the possibility of the gradual transformation of the national democratic revolution into a socialist revolution. During the stormy events of 1945-1948 it made effective use of its positions in the organs of state power gained in the struggle against the bourgeoisie, against attempts to destroy the National Front and for nationalization, land reform, and other social changes.

In this acute internal political struggle, the Communist Party proved its firm links with the people and gradually won a majority of the people over to its side. This created a favorable basis for the resolute steps of the people's masses against the reaction which tried to organize a counterrevolutionary coup in February 1948. The aim was to reduce to naught the gains of the revolution and to restore the rule of capital. Broad strata of the working people had learned from their own experience about the reactionary nature of the policy of the bourgeois parties and of their representatives. This made it possible to resolve the question of political power in postwar Czechoslovakia in February 1948 by peaceful means within the framework of existing laws and constitutional traditions.

For the first time in history socialist revolution had won a victory in an industrially developed country with capitalist production relations, a numerous petite bourgeoisie, and strong parliamentary bourgeois-democratic traditions. This helped to refute the theory, put about by anticommunist centers, that socialism was only suitable for underdeveloped countries.

The successful socialist revolution in Czechoslovakia confirmed the international character and viability of Marxism-Leninism and gave a further impetus to the elaboration of the theory of scientific communism. The friendship and alliance with the USSR which became an invariable orientation of the party's policy and a guarantee of the further successful peaceful development of our motherland provided a solid barrier in the path of possible imperialist intervention. An important role in the defense of the gains of the working people was played by the people's militia which was created in the revolutionary February days. After the Victorious February the political fragmentation of the working class was eliminated once and for all. As early as June 1948 the leadership of the CPCZ and the Social Democratic Party adopted a manifesto on the merger of the two parties on the basis of the Marxist-Leninist teaching and the Communist Party's program principles. Under the leadership of the CPCZ a reorganization took place—on a new basis—of the work of the National Front which became a broad democratic platform for the strengthening of the alliance of the working people in town and country, representatives of political parties and nonparty people, and members of public and professional organizations in the united struggle for socialist building.

The results which our people have achieved under the leadership of the Communist Party in socioeconomic and cultural development over the past 40 years clearly demonstrate the superiority of the new social system. With the victory of the socialist production relations exploitation of man by man was eliminated and the class structure and social consciousness of our society changed radically. Czechoslovakia's industrial potential increased manifold. Life in the countryside changed drastically and is now based on modern large-scale cooperative production. People's standard of education has risen and socialist culture has developed.

Despite the fact that we were forced to counter attempts at political and economic blackmail on the part of international imperialism and allocate substantial sums of money to ensure the country's defense capability, people's living standards based on the system of firm social guarantees have appreciably improved. Our state as a federation of Czechs, Slovaks, and other nationalities based on equal rights has become a firm component of the socialist community and a member of the CEMA and the defensive Warsaw Pact alliance. It has thus considerably consolidated its international position and state sovereignty.

The people of our country are truly proud of the results of the revolutionary changes which they have achieved within a historically short period. However, we are not forgetting either, that in the early fifties, during the first stage of socialist building, serious mistakes, shortcomings, and losses occurred which were caused by the personality cult and crude violations of socialist legality and the Leninist norms of party life and state management.

In the sixties, after the main tasks in the building of the foundations of socialism had been carried out, subjectivist approaches began to emerge which led to an unrealistic assessment of the achieved level of socialist development, an overestimation of the moral and political unity of society, and a slackening of ideological work. Problems began to amass in society and crisis phenomena began to build. The party's attempts to resolve them in early 1968 failed as a result of the weakness and absence of political unity of the CPCZ Central Committee at that time and this was exploited by right-wing and antisocialist forces to create a social crisis, to stage an "anti-February" and put the very existence of socialism in Czechoslovakia in jeopardy.

Only thanks to the international assistance and support of the socialist states were the reaction's plans thwarted and conditions created for the regrouping of healthy forces in the party and society which would ensure the consolidation of social relations in the country and assume the lead in its further socialist development.

Our party has learned from its own experience that success in socialist building can only be achieved if its policy rests on a firm scientific basis and the necessary social conditions and a corresponding mechanism are created to achieve the set aims. Only the ideological and organizational unity of the CPCZ, its links with the people, the development of political, organizational, and ideological work, intraparty democracy, collective leadership and personal responsibility, criticism and self-criticism, and political openness and glasnost can ensure the consistent implementation by the party of its role of revolutionary vanguard of society, the revolutionary continuity of socialist development, and the elimination of the crises and shortcomings on which the forces which are hostile to socialism feed.

All this is extremely topical especially today when socialism has entered a qualitatively new historical stage whose main feature is the scientific and technical revolution as a precondition of the acceleration of socioeconomic development. It demands a restructuring of the economic mechanism and of the entire economic, political, and spiritual life of society and all-around deepening of socialist democracy in the interests of a substantial expansion of the potential for the utilization of people's creative initiative.

The historic contribution of the CPSU and its leadership is that it initiated this process of the creative application of Leninism at the current stage and assumed the lead in this sphere. As in the past, our party is making creative use of the experience of the Soviet Communists and the Soviet people in defining and implementing its political line. The decisions of the 17th CPCZ Congress serve as the guideline in our work. The Central Committee discussed the progress of their implementation at last December's plenum and drew up a comprehensive program for the implementation of restructuring in all spheres of society's life. We have entered the stage of the practical implementation of the adopted decisions in the interests of the revival of the dynamic development of socialism, overcoming of the trends which lead to stagnation and lagging, in the interests of achieving qualitative changes in all spheres of our country's social life.

The main precondition of the success of restructuring is the deepening of socialist democracy and a comprehensive economic reform. Socialism was born of people's desire for a happy, peaceful life, comradely, honest, and equitable relations between people free from exploitation. This is why people's vigorous, creative activities, their active participation in the solution of state and social tasks, and a sense of being masters of their own country is also a decisive precondition for its development.

Therefore we link the improvement of socialism with the expansion of socialist democracy which we regard as a combination of rights, obligations, and social responsibility. We are creating conditions for the broad application of the Leninist principles of glasnost. We are drawing up measures to enhance the rights and responsibilities of national committees as self-management organs of people's power and to change the system of elections to representative organs. Proposals are being elaborated about new regulations and a draft law on the status, rights, and obligations of deputies of legislative bodies and it is planned to draft a new CSSR constitution. We are paying much attention to stepping up the struggle against violators of socialist legality, morality, and discipline. Also of considerable importance is the enhancement of the efficiency of the system of education and training.

An extremely important role in the process of democratization is being played by the CSSR National Front which has proved in the course of socialist building in our country that it forms a solid basis of the political system. In addition to the CPCZ and four other political parties it comprises 25 social and professional organizations. Apart from that 297 other voluntary organizations and associations are active in Czechoslovakia. With a view to the galvanization of the National Front and the broadening of the participation of the organizations which are united in it in the elaboration, implementation, and verification of policy specific measures have been adopted aimed at the enhancement of their independence and a democratization of their internal life.

An inseparable and at present decisive part of the social system is the comprehensive restructuring of the economic mechanism. It is based on the simultaneous expansion of the rights and responsibilities of enterprises and cooperative organizations for the satisfaction of society's needs on the basis of full economic accountability, self-financing, and socialist self-management.

In connection with the switch from predominantly administrative to economic methods of management on the basis of unified criteria and long-term normatives the role of qualitative indicators, commodity-money relations, the operation of the law of value, and of all functions of the socialist market are considerably increasing. The party is trying to improve planning in the interests of the growth and better utilization of the socialist economy's vast potential. This is a qualitative difference between the present changes and the 1968-1969 crisis period when the attempts to carry out an economic reform were used by rightist and revisionist forces for attacks on the socialist nature of the national economy and the leading role of the party in society.

The growth of enterprises' economic independence and the expansion of opportunities for socialist enterprise are coupled with the working people's increased responsibility for the results of management including the risk of financial losses in the event of failure. This creates an objective precondition for greater fairness in the assessment of enterprises' performance and for overcoming leveling and making more effective use of differentiated remuneration of people's labor as the basis of social justice. The broad involvement of the working people in the process of management and decision-making enables them to express their views on questions concerning the work of the enterprise and its development and provides them with the right to choose management workers. Just like the Soviet Communists, we have adopted the decision to carry out an economic reform, which represents the most important restructuring of the socioeconomic sphere since February 1948, because we realized the existing system of management and planning does not meet the demands for the intensification of the national economy. This is further borne out by the deceleration of the rate of economic development during recent 5-year plans. The main aim of the upcoming changes is the creation of preconditions for the acceleration of the socioeconomic development of our country in the interests of the further substantial enhancement of people's living standards.

By the year 2000 personal consumption in Czechoslovakia is to increase by at least 50 percent in comparison with 1985, while social consumption is to retain its prevailing high dynamism. In the interests of this it is necessary to ensure, by the end of the millenium, a growth of the national income by approximately 66 percent or more than Kcs400 billion. For the sake of comparison this is an increase which equals that achieved during the 40 years since the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army in May 1945.

These tasks cannot be resolved without a constant and significant increase in labor productivity and a restructuring of the structure of the national economy on the basis of combining the advantages of socialism with the achievements of scientific and technical progress, it cannot be achieved without the broad involvement of our country in the international socialist division of labor and the development of multifaceted relations with other CEMA countries and above all the Soviet Union.

M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Czechoslovakia last year was an expression of the strength and indestructibility of Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship. It confirmed that our people unequivocally support the revolutionary changes which are being implemented in the Soviet Union under the CPSU leadership. We are following the same path, we are tackling similar tasks. We are seeking opportunities to further expand mutual cooperation which we regard as the basis of the stable and dynamic socialist development of our country.

Much has already been achieved in this sphere. Our cooperation with the Soviet Union has a very wide scope and relates to all spheres of social life. Its exceptional importance is borne out by the fact, for instance, that the USSR accounts for approximately 45 percent of our foreign trade turnover. We want to continue in this direction and expand above all progressive forms of cooperation such as intrasectorial cooperation and specialization, the development of direct links between enterprises and organizations, and the creation of joint enterprisies. A good basis for this is provided by the bilateral Program for Long-Term Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation Through the Year 2000 and the concept for the division of labor between the CSSR and the USSR for the next 15-20 years which is being drafted.

Our meeting with M.S. Gorbachev in Moscow in January this year resulted in new impulses. One is the accord reached on the elaboration of a document on the further development of cooperation in the sphere of superstructure—in ideology, education, the work of the mass media, culture, art, and sport. We agree with our Soviet comrades that this is extremely important and necessary, especially today when we are jointly resolving complex tasks of social restructuring and accelerated development of socialism.

We regard the leading role of the CPCZ as the main precondition of the successful implementation of restructuring and democratization. The party is the inspiration and motive force behind restructuring and therefore serious changes must take place in its work. This means the main feature of intraparty life must be the democratic discussion of questions to ensure that Communists spearhead the struggle for the new thinking, against inertia, against cautious wait-and-see attitudes, to ensure they win the working people over for the policy of the party by their personal example.

In the entire process of restructuring the decisive role is played by cadres. Our party is paying exceptional attention to these questions. The CPCZ Central Committee December Plenum adopted an important decision on the improvement of cadre policy which places the main emphasis on a well-considered, long-term selection, training, and placement of cadres and also on the appropriate supervision of their activity. Only people who in addition to professional training, political maturity, and moral stability are able to lead people, think independently, people who are not afraid of responsibility and are able to take calculated risks will be able to gain a good reputation in leading posts. We will increasingly select young people, women, nonparty people, and representatives of other political parties in the CSSR National Front to leading posts.

Over the past 40 years our people have achieved considerable success. We have a developed socialist economy, great culture, educated and skilled cadres, and our people support the policy of the party. We rely on the time-tested fraternal friendship and alliance with the USSR and the other socialist countries. This inspires us with confidence that we will be able to reach the set aim.

An indispensable precondition for this is peace. We actively support the large-scale peace proposals of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact states, and the concept of a comprehensive system of peace and international security set forth by the 27th CPSU Congress. We regard the results of the talks between M.S. Gorbachev and U.S. President R. Reagan in Washington as a very important first step toward the elimination of a nuclear catastrophe. In concert with other socialist countries we will continue to make our contribution to the implementation of the new political thinking which is based on a realistic understanding of the complexities of the present-day world and broad international cooperation in the economic, political, military, humanitarian, ecological, and other spheres.

Our working people understand that the best contribution they can make to the fulfillment of the revolutionary behest of Victorious February is honest creative labor, and the development of creative initiative in the fulfillment of the tasks of the 5-year plan, an active and responsible attitude to restructuring and democratization in the interests of the strategy of acceleration of our country's socioeconomic and social development, and our country's stepped up participation in the strengthening of world socialism and the enhancement of its prestige in the international arena.

USSR Leadership Honors CSSR Anniversary

PM251524 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 88 Second Edition p 1

[Message from the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers: "To Comrade Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee General Secretary; Comrade Gustav Husak, CSSR President; CSSR Premier Comrade Lubomir Strougal"]

[Text] Dear comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers, on behalf of the Soviet people, send to you and to all the working people of the CSSR ardent fraternal greetings and cordial congratulations on the glorious jubilee—the 40th anniversary of Victorious February.

Securing the February victory over reaction under the CPCZ's leadership, millions of Czechs and Slovaks made their choice in favor of socialism. In a historically short time, thanks to the selfless labor and creative energy of working people in the cities and countryside and representatives of the intelligentsia, major successes have been achieved, a mighty production and intellectual potential has been created, and a high degree of social protection for people has been ensured.

True to the ideas and goals of February, the CPCZ today focuses the energy of communists, the working class, and all the people on the pressing problems of the country's development and the improvement of the socialist system. The path to this is opened up by the program put forward by the CPCZ Central Committee December (1987) Plenum for the consistent implementation of the 17th CPCZ Congress course of the acceleration of socioeconomic development, comprehensive restructuring, and the democratization of all public life.

The unity of the CPSU and the CPCZ and the indissoluble friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia have always been a firm basis for the fruitful development of all-around cooperation. We are convinced the similar general directions of the radical restructuring in our countries will be an important stimulus to raising the entire range of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations to a qualitatively new level.

We wholeheartedly wish you, dear comrades, and all the communists and working people of Czechoslovakia further achievements, happiness, and prosperity. We express firm confidence that the strengthening alliance between our peoples and states will continue to serve as a reliable contribution to strengthening the socialist community and to the cause of peace and social progress.

The CPSU Central Committee

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The USSR Council of Ministers

Czechoslovak Culture Exhibit Opens in Moscow

LD242249 Prague CTK in English 2156 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow Feb 24 (CTK correspondent)—The days of Czechoslovak culture in the Soviet Union opened in the Bolshoi Theatre here today.

On this occasion, Czechoslovak Deputy Premier Matej Lucan, head of an official delegation participating in the days of culture, said: "We are glad that in the year of the 40th anniversary of the February victory we can present to the Soviet public the successes of the Czech and Slovak art". He further expressed the hope that the presentation of Czechoslovak culture in the Soviet Union will not be reduced only to official actions but will contribute to the establishment of still closer contacts between the nations of the two countries and their cultures.

Soviet Minister of Culture Vasiliy Zakharov said that the identity of aims followed by reconstruction in Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union creates favourable conditions for the further expansion of contacts in the spiritual sphere.

Talyzin, Others Present

LD242021 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The Days of Culture of Czechoslovakia in the Soviet Union were ceremonially opened in the USSR Bolshoi Theater today. They are devoted to the 40th anniversary of the February victory of the Czechoslovak people over the forces of reaction. Present at the ceremony were Comrades Vorotnikov, Talyzin, and Medvedev; other senior officials, representatives of public organizations, and cultural figures. An official delegation led by Lucan, deputy premier of the CSSR Government, was in the hall. The envoys from socialist Czechoslovakia were cordially welcomed by Zakharov, USSR minister of culture. Comrade Lucan spoke in reply. The honor and right of opening the festival were given to the opera company of the Slovak National Theater.

Further on Opening

PM261006 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Official Announcements"]

[Text] N.V. Talyzin, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member, USSR Council of Ministers first deputy chairman, and USSR Council of Ministers Bureau for Social Development chairman, met with Matej Lucan, CSSR deputy premier and CPCZ Central Committee member, leader of the Czechoslovak delegation to the CSSR Culture Festival in the USSR in connection with the 40th anniversary of the February victory of the Czechoslovak working people over the forces of reaction, in the Kremlin on 24 February.

There was a wide exchange of opinions on questions of Soviet-Czechoslovak cultural cooperation and ways of widening and improving it.

Taking part in the talk, which took place in a warm, comradely atmosphere, were V.G. Zakharov, CPSU Central Committee member and USSR minister of culture, L. Pezlar, CPCZ Central Committee member and Communist Party of Slovakia Central Committee secretary, and other comrades.

Vorotnikov, Biryukova Attend CSSR Meeting

LD252217 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Feb 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A ceremonial meeting of the capital's working people was held today in Moscow devoted to the 40th anniversary of the February victory of the Czechoslovak people over the forces of reaction. In the presidium of the meeting were Comrades Vorotnikov and Biryukova and representatives of party, Soviet and public organizations.

Culture Minister Klusak was also there. The meeting was addressed by Rehorek, Czechoslovak ambassador to the Soviet Union. It was stressed that the core of the fraternal relations and varied cooperation between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia is formed by the militant alliance and close ties between the CPSU and the CPCZ.

CPCZ's Dockal Visits Moscow Educational Bodies
PM261004 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 88
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] A delegation of Czechoslovak party workers headed by M. Dockal, CPCZ Central Committee Education and Science Department chief, was in Moscow 22-24 February. Meetings were held at the CPSU Central Committee Science and Educational Institutions Department, the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, and the USSR Ministry of Education. The Czechoslovak comrades were briefed on the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum on questions of the restructuring of secondary and higher education. Questions of the further development of mutual cooperation in the education sphere were discussed during the talks.

Hungarian-Soviet Trade Unions Meet in Moscow
LD242255 Budapest MTI in English 2158 GMT
24 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, February 24 (MTI)—The Secretariats of the Hungarian and Soviet Trade Union centres held a meeting in Moscow on February 22-23 with Presidents Sandor Gaspar and Stepan Shalayev in the chair.

The two delegations held sincere and friendly talks on the place and role and topical tasks of the trade unions.

The representatives of the Soviet trade unions gave briefs on the growing role of the unions in the solution of tasks faced by the Soviet people, and their participation in restructuring in various fields of social life. They attributed considerable attention to the activity of workplace collectives and trade unions working under the conditions and self-accounting and self-financing, and to the widening of trade union democracy and openness.

The delegation of the Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions (SZOT) outlined the tasks faced by the Hungarian trade unions, and their experience in the programme of social and economic advance and the solution of the social-welfare problems of working people.

They surveyed the unions' participation in the extension of socialist democracy, the development of the waging system and social-welfare policy, employment policy, retraining and safeguarding of interests.

The parties gave a positive assessment to the development of bilateral relations and cooperation, but emphasized that the efficiency of relations should be improved and enriched in content, taking the current changes in the two countries into account.

The meeting reflected the full identity of the positions of the two countries' trade unions on all fundamental issues of international life and the world trade union movement. They highly appreciated the Soviet-American agreement on the elimination of intermediate-range and tactical-operational nuclear missiles, and welcomed the positive initiatives of the Soviet Government aimed at settling the Afghan issue. The Szot and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions expressed their intention to continue to make every effort to strengthen the work and rpestige of the World Federation of Trade Unions and its influence on the world trade union movement.

Sandor Gaspar, member of the HSWP PC and SZOT president, met V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU CC.

West Europe

Motives Behind Swedish Sub Sightings Examined
LD242258 Moscow International Service
in Swedish 1900 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] According to a report from the REUTER news bureau in Stockholm, the Swedish commander in chief of the Armed Forces turned to the government on Tuesday with a request for an extra allocation of $280 million for the fight against foreign submarines. The commander in chief explained that Sweden does not use enough strength to expose the violations that foreign submarines constantly carry out in Swedish waters. Our correspondent Oleg Okulovskiy writes:

Every time these fictitious submarines come up in the Swedish press, would it not be [word indistinct] to ask: But why exactly now? What is the answer to this question? According to my way of seeing things, there are two reasons. The first one is political. When the INF Treaty was signed, it was the first step away from tension and in the direction of disarmament. The treaty met with enormous enthusiasm in the international peace movement. Naturally, Sweden and Scandinavia were no exceptions. In military circles the idea that now that the first step has been taken, then others must follow, became dangerously popular. The military, in other words, reacted against ideas of peace and disarmament. One can see that these submarines which nobody has seen can neutralize these feelings. This is the reason these submarines have appeared more and more often in the Swedish press in the last 2 months.

But there seems to be another reason, a so-called military-financial reason. It is clear that different sorts of peace feelings and positive changes in world politics do not provide extra allocations for the military, even less so when the Swedish military is concerned.

At the beginning of last year, the government granted 6.200 billion kronor extra for the next 5-year period. But now calls are heard again for extra allocations by the

Defense Ministry. It is clear that the growing appetite must somehow be justified, and this is why the number of violations increases considerably in the military reports.

I want also to draw your attention to the fact that the military have for a long time reiterated that they cannot catch any submarines because they are not allowed to use weapons against them. In December last year, Premier Ingvar Carlsson declared that the Navy would be allowed to use weapons against intruding submarines. But even if, as the commander in chief has declared, the number of violations over the past 3 months has increased, the extended powers given to the Navy have not brought any result whatsoever. This is perhaps not due to the Swedish Navy, but to the fact that there are no foreign submarines in the Swedish waters. This would mean that the new sum of $280 million that the commander in chief recently requested in extra allocations from the government will hardly be of any use.

UK Publishers To Develop Restructuring Yearbook

LD252209 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Feb 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report by correspondent S. Iyezuitov]

[Text] In Moscow an agreement on cooperation has been signed between the All-Union Copyright Agency and the British publishers Pergamon Press.

Interest in the transformations in our country is enormous. At the end of last year, the joint-stock company Pergamon Press approached Soviet representatives and proposed the publication of an annual yearbook on restructuring. Kevin Maxwell, general director of Pergamon, said at a press conference: We wanted to gain first-hand information from people who know the true state of affairs in your country, far better than Western specialists.

The yearbook "Restructuring in the USSR" will deal with the most varied aspects of life in the Soviet Union: social problems, the economy, foreign and domestic policy. The agreement is now coming into force. The book will be published in the main European languages.

Here is a short interview with Kevin Maxwell:

[Begin recording in English with superimposed Russian translation] [Maxwell] We are glad that we have resolved all the technical matters quickly and have got down to business . We now have to tackle responsible work on which our joint enterprise will depend.

[Iyezuitov] Are you pleased with the result?

[Maxwell] I'm delighted, of course. It was my idea, after all. [end recording]

Yet another opinion. [video shows Iyezuitov talking to Academician A.G. Aganbegyan of the USSR Academy of Sciences, leader of the editorial council—identified from screen caption]

[Aganbegyan] It is no simple matter: The Western reader has for many years been brought up on a certain stereotyped attitude toward our country. It is necessary to properly convey our achievements and not to remain silent about the shortcomings and difficulties, and to do that, in general, in a form that will be intelligible and convincing. We are very hopeful that this publication will promote mutual understanding between nations. That, incidentally, is a noble aim, and it is worth working very hard for the sake of it.

FRG's Kohl Favors Further Arms Control Steps

LD251347 Moscow TASS in English 1306 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Bonn February 25 TASS—West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has declared for further steps towards arms control and disarmament. He made a government statement in the Bundestag today upon the results of his recent visit to Washington and the session of the European Council of the Communities held in Brussels at the level of the heads of state and government of the Common Market countries.

The chancellor favoured the earliest ratification of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Eliminating Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. "None of my interlocutors in Washington doubted that this treaty will be ratified by the U.S. Senate soon", he said.

The head of the Bonn government underscored the need to achieve a 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive armaments of the two great powers, which, in his view, meets the security interests of all Europeans.

Kohl noted that there was a broad concurrence of views between West Germany and the United States in the evaluation of the situation in the world following the signing of the INF Treaty and also with regard to the NATO policy. He said both sides favoured an intensive dialogue and broad cooperation with the Warsaw Treaty member states.

FRG, Swedish Ministers Discuss Disarmament

LD242149 Moscow TASS in English 2019 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Bonn February 24 TASS—FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson declared for the deepening of East-West cooperation. At a meeting held here today they emphasized that the West should assume a responsible attitude toward the changes taking place in the USSR which open new opportunities for the improvement of cooperation. The ministers emphasized the importance of pressing for the conclusion of a treaty on the elimination of chemical weapons on a global scale. They are also of the opinion that talks should soon be started on conventional armaments in Europe to achieve a balance in this area in Europe.

In accordance with a report circulated by the FRG Foreign Ministry, the ministers paid much attention to the situation in Afghanistan. They expressed the conviction that the USSR really intends to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and declared in support of all the efforts in this direction. Genscher and Andersson expressed concern over the situation in southern Africa, discussed questions of the settlement of the Middle East conflict. Questions of bilateral ties, of the widening and deepening of cooperation between the European Community, where the FRG now chairs the leading body, and the European Free Trade Association, which includes Sweden, were also on the agenda of the talks.

French Foreign Ministry Aide, Zagladin Talk

PM261010 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Official Announcements"]

[Text] On 24 February V.V. Zagladin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, received P. Coste, director of the French Foreign Ministry Center for Analysis and Planning.

An exchange of opinions took place in a constructive spirit on the problems of the new thinking, the concept of the priority of common human values and interdependence, the humanization of international relations, and the implementation of the ideas of peaceful coexistence in present-day conditions.

Meets Petrovskiy, Rogachev

LD251145 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0808 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (TASS)—Soviet-French consultations on issues of foreign policy planning were held in Moscow 22-25 February. The group of French Foreign Ministry representatives was headed by P. Coste, director of the Center for Analysis and Planning, and the group of USSR Foreign Ministry representatives by Lev Mendelevich, member of the collegium and head of the Administration for Evaluation and Planning.

F. Coste held meetings and talks with USSR Deputy Foreign Ministers Vladimir Petrovskiy and Igor Rogachev.

The representatives of the French Foreign Ministry also met Soviet foreign affairs researchers, including Vitaliy Zhurkin, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Europe Institute.

Spanish Communist Party Congress Opens 19 Feb

Central Committee Greetings

PM191427 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 88 Second Edition p 4

[CPSU Central Committee message to 12th Spanish Communist Party Congress]

[Text] To the 12th Spanish Communist Party Congress [PCE].

Dear Comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee sends fraternal greetings to the delegates to the 12th PCE Congress and wishes you success in your work.

The 12th PCE Congress is taking place at a time when encouraging prospects for an improvement of the international atmosphere have emerged. The Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles has opened up the possibility of the further uninterrupted advancement of the disarmament process in the direction of real cuts in nuclear weapons and the reduction of conventional arms. This will be conducive to the creation of a more favorable political climate in the world and the strenthening of international security.

Though by no means with ease, changes for the better are also taking place in the sphere of economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation between the countries of East and West. The path which we have traveled in Soviet-Spanish relations and the desire of the Soviet and the Spanish leaderships to develop them further serve as concrete examples of this ongoing movement.

The revolutionary processes of restructuring currently underway in the USSR are in keeping with the fundamental interests of the Soviet people and the entire cause of socialism and peace.

The struggle of the Communists and all democrats in Spain invariably enjoys the sympathies and solidarity of the CPSU. Soviet Communists wish the PCE success in its activities aimed at protecting the fundamental interests of the working people in the interests of democracy, social progress, and peace. We express to all Spanish Communists the wish that their unity may be restored.

The CPSU is ready to continue to develop and strengthen its relations with the PCE on the basis of equality, independence, and international solidarity.

May the fraternal friendship and solidarity between the CPSU and the PCE and between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Spain strengthen and develop.

Long live peace and socialism!

The CPSU Central Committee.

Activities Detailed

PM261245 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 88 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Chernyshev and TASS correspondent R. Serebrennikov report: "Communists' Forum"]

[Text] Madrid, 19 Feb—The 12th Spanish Communist Party [PCE] Congress opened here today under the slogan "A Strong Communist Party: The Response of the Left-Wing Forces." Some 619 delegates representing the PCE's 62,000 members are taking part in its work.

The congress will discuss the Central Committee report, political theses, and the party strategic program, and will also elect the new leading organs.

Some 70 delegations of communist and working parties and national liberation movements are attending the forum. A CPSU delegation led by I.S. Boldyrev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the CPSU Stavropol Kraykom, was among them.

PCE Chairman Dolores Ibarruri, and other party leaders took their positions in the presidium to stormy applause from the delegates and guests.

In her greeting to the congress, D. Ibarruri indicated the necessity of attaining unity among the communists and reinforcing the union of all democratic forces.

Gerardo Iglesias, general secretary of the PCE, delivered the Central Committee's report. Touching on international problems, he noted that it is impossible in the present era to resolve problems of peoples' socioeconomic development without linking them closely with the problems of disarmament and the strengthening of universal peace. After a long period of confrontation, the situation in the world is beginning to change. It is primarily the Soviet Union's initiatives in the international arena which have assisted this.

The Spanish Communists, he stressed, are decisively supporting the process of restructuring and democratization taking place in the Soviet Union, the scale and depth of which have extraordinary significance for the entire world. The transformations which are being implemented in the USSR are raising socialism's prestige, restoring the very essence of socialism, and developing its transforming potential.

The new international situation being created by the USSR's restructuring policy, the speaker noted, is an important impetus for us in strengthening the struggle for progress and disarmament on both an international and a European scale. The struggle for peace, for Spain's withdrawal from NATO, for the elimination of U.S. military bases on Spanish territory, and for the country's implementation of a policy of neutrality are the PCE's primary tasks.

G. Iglesias analyzed the causes which led to the crisis in the PCE, the drop in its numbers, and the decline of its influence among the working people. He focused mainly on the necessity of unity in the PCE, uniting all Spanish Communists in a single party and on the development of a coalition of left-wing forces. "The consolidation of the PCE," the speaker stated, "can be attained only by eliminating the reasons which brought about the crisis and stagnation in the party and by completely restoring the democratic principles of its activity."

General Secretary Elected

LD221421 Moscow TASS in English 1243 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Madrid February 22 TASS—The Central Committee, elected by the 12th Congress of the Communist Party of Spain, held its meeting late last night.

Dolores Ibarruri was elected chairman of the Communist Party of Spain while Julio Anguita—its general secretary.

Julio Anguita, born in Fuengirola, Malaga Province, in 1941, is a secondary school history teacher by education. He joined the Communist Party of Spain in 1972.

He was twice elected from the Communist Party of Spain mayor of Cordoba, one of the biggest cities of Spain. In 1984 he headed the "Joint Left" coalition in Andalusia, was elected deputy of parliament of that autonomous region.

New Leader Interviewed

LD232138 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Feb 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; V. Gorkayev report]

[Text] The 12th Congress of the Spanish Communist Party has ended its work in Madrid. This congress drew special attention. The reason for that is that the PCE [Spanish Communist Party]—not so long ago one of the strongest communist parties in Western Europe—has been suffering through some hard times over the past few years. Many Communists left its ranks for numerous reasons. Some set up two new communist parties. In fact, the congress was to find ways to overcome the split in the Spanish Communist movement and to restore and expand the influence of Spanish Communists in society at large.

We spoke to Julio Anguita, who has just been elected as the new PCE general secretary. He has acquired great party authority, considering that some time ago he was the only Communist mayor in a major Spanish city, in this case Cordoba, and then was the leader of the United Left Coalition, with Communists forming its backbone, in Andalucia.

[Begin recording] [Gorkayev, speaking in Spanish fading into Russian translation] What is the task of the Spanish Communists?

[Anguita, speaking in Spanish fading into Russian translation] There are three tasks: strengthening the party, achieving unity among the Communists, and strengthening the United Left Coalition.

[Gorkayev] The bourgeois press has recently been saying a great deal to the effect that the communist parties have outlived their usefulness.

[Anguita] I believe the communist parties possess great political strength. What happens here is that someone is in a majority or minority as a result of elections, but none of them pose the question of transforming the state. The Communists stand for its transformation.

[Gorkayev] Julio, seizing the opportunity to address the Soviet people, what would you like to say?

[Anguita] I have read almost everything there is about perestroyka. It attracts everyone's attention. It speaks of the strength of the society. When this or that collective dares to voice self-criticism, to offer an alternative, it means that it is healthy. As long as there are debates, the system is alive and developing. [end recording]

Briefs

UK Businessmen Visit Moscow

Moscow February 22 TASS—Contracts signed between Soviet and British partners in the first months of 1988 make it possible to hope for the expansion of bilateral trade. This was said at a press conference here today devoted to the visit to the USSR by a delegation of the Engineering Industries Association of Great Britain. This is the second time that the Engineering Industries Association sends a delegation to Moscow, a TASS correspondent was told by the delegation's leader, the association's export director Anna Small. The group includes representatives of the firms from various sectors of the processing industry of Great Britain. Many of the firms have durable business ties with Soviet organizations, while others thus make a first attempt to put their products on the Soviet market. The association that mostly unites medium and small British firms pays much attention to the widening of the export of their products. [Excerpt] [*Moscow TASS in English 1506 GMT 22 Feb 88 LD*]

Tannery Enterprise With Italy

An agreement has been reached on the construction of a tannery works and a major fancy leather goods factory in Tolyatti. It was signed by the Povolzhskoye Association, one of the largest pork factories in the Volga valley, and the Italian firm (Italmachiniplan). The contract stipulates that two-thirds of the profits from the joint enterprise will be received by the Soviet association, and one-third by the Italian firm. The Volga workers will build the industrial facilities, the Italians will supply technological equipment as well as dies, accessories, and designs. The Italian firm guarantees the manufacture of competitive products worth over $20 million a year. These are leather overcoats and vests, footwear, handbags, other commodities. The construction will begin before the year is out. [Text] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 24 Feb 88 LD*]

Latin America & Caribbean

Panamanian President Removed From Office

LD261056 Moscow TASS in English 1033 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Havana February 26 TASS—Panama's legislative assembly (the one-chamber parliament) has voted overwhelmingly to deny the Republic's President Eric Delvalle his powers for the "violation of the Constitution". It also removed from power the country's first vice-president, Roderick Esquivel.

The action was by unanimous vote of the 38 members of the 67-seat assembly in attendence. The procedure took only ten minutes. The deputies who attended the session represent in Panama's supreme legislative body the National Democratic Union Party which holds 45 seats in the assembly.

Panama's Council of Ministers suggested electing to the post of the president Manuel Solis Palma, the present minister of education. Under the Panamanian Constitution, if there is no vice-president, who under special circumstances holds the post of the president, a candidate for the head of the state is put forward by the government from among the members of the Cabinet of Ministers.

The reason behind the removal of Delvalle has been his decision to dismiss Brigadier-General Antonio Noriega as commander-in-chief of the Panamanian National Defence Forces, against whom the U.S. authorities have launched a harassment campaign recently. Several weeks ago, he came out against Washington's attempts to put pressure on Panama to prevent its involvement in the quest for a peaceful solution to the crisis situation in Central America.

Appearing on national radio and television last Thursday, the Panamanian president linked his decision to the difficulties faced by the Panamanian leadership inside the country and on the foreign political arena, according to news agency reports from Panama.

The president appointed Colonel Marcos Justines, acting chief of the General Staff of the National Defence Forces, as commander-in-chief of the Panamanian National Defence Forces. However, he categorically refused to take the job.

Appealing on television, the colonel stated that the United States forced President Delvalle to make the decision to remove General Noriega. He sharply denounced the United States' gross interference in the affairs of Panama and assured that none of the members of the general staff of the National Defence Forces intended to support the president's decision.

National Police Chief Leonidas Macias and Deputy Head of the General Staff Elias Cartillo have categorically condemned the president's decision to dismiss the general. Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias, now in Colombia, also said he fully supported Noriega. He stressed that Noriega was the sole guarantor of Panama's security.

Several newspapers, television and radio stations have been seized by troops supporting General Noriega, Panamanian television reported. The residence of the country's president is encircled by army units loyal to Noriega, some reports say.

Many popular demonstrations in support to the general, who was ordered to step down, are held in the capital and various areas of the country.

In this complex situation political observers are virtually unanimous that the decision of the Panamanian president is directly linked with the United States' gross pressure on Panama. Over the last several months, Washington has been intensively whipping up the anti-Panamanian campaign in the pursuit of the goal to get the Panamanian leadership, including General Noriega, to be removed from power.

The first reason behind the whole string of attacks against Panama by U.S. Administration officials and several reactionary members of the U.S. Congress is Panama's independent course on the international arena, its support for the process of peaceful settlement in Central America. The second and no less important reason is the U.S. bid to thwart the fulfillment of the Panamanian-U.S. treaties on the Panama Canal, under which this inter-oceanic waterway should pass under Panama's full jurisdiction by the year 2000.

U.S. Involvement Viewed

LD261523 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Mikhail Mayorov Commentary]

[Text] News agencies report that the situation in Panama has deteriorated sharply following the decision by the country's president, Eric Arturo Delvalle—who resigned subsequently—to remove Brigadier General Manuel Antonio Noriega from the post of the commander in chief of the National Defense Force. More on this from our observer Mikhail Mayorov, and this is what he writes:

I would not undertake to discuss all the nuances of the current volatile situation in Panama or forestall its possible turns. I'd like to discuss the fact of the general's removal, of which so much is said and written today. The American press used to openly predict that removal, posing the general of its pages as a drug leader. There were enough other accusations brought against the general by the right-wing elements of Panama and by the U.S. Administration.

We journalists tend to search for coincidences that are far from being accidental. Such a coincidence did take place in Noriega's case. Shortly before Delvalle passed his decision, President Reagan himself had joined in the campaign launched against the brigadier general, accusing the latter of being involved in the drug trade. Under United States pressure, Delvalle took the decision to ask the general to resign. According to reports, this was revealed by none other but Colonel Marcos Justines, who is planned to replace Noriega in the post of the commander in chief of the National Defense Force.

A mafiosi linked with the criminal business: This image can hardly be associated with a person who has devoted himself to the protection of his country's interests and who favors in particular the transfer of the Panamanian Canal before the year 2000 to the people of Panama, as certain agreements with the United States provide. I have no doubt that the general's principled stand was the reason that touched off the campaign presently launched against him.

Shevardnadze Meets With Nicaragua's D'Escoto

LD261441 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, today met in Moscow with visiting Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

They held a substantive exchange of opinions on bilateral relations and some international problems, including those connected with the need to settle existing regional conflicts.

Note was taken, among positive trends in settling conflict situations, of a desire for national reconciliation, the involvement of regional organizations, and the increased role of the United Nations.

Shevardnadze stressed that the Soviet Union invariably follows a policy of principle directed at easing tension in Central America and achieving an early end to the undeclared war against Nicaragua.

He expressed the firm conviction that the only possibility to ensure this is in a peaceful settlement of the regional conflict, just as of the other similar situations, by political means in the spirit of realism and with regard for the rightful interests of the sides concerned.

Shevardnadze spoke in detail about the Soviet Union's additional steps towards intensifying international efforts in support of a Central American settlement.

D'Escoto set forth the Nicaraguan leadership's point of view on the current situation in the region and briefed his Soviet counterpart on specific measures being taken to implement the Guatemala accords aimed at bringing about an enduring and just peace in Central America.

Both ministers pointed to the need to renounce actions preventing the realization of these accords.

As Soviet-Nicaraguan relations were discussed, the sides voiced satisfaction with the achieved level of cooperation and reaffirmed their mutual desire to further develop and steadily strengthen multifaceted ties between the two countries.

Touching on the problems of the present-day world, the ministers called for wide-ranging and vigorous activities to create a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

The Nicaraguan minister expressed a high opinion of the Soviet Union's activist policy of principle in the field of disarmament.

The meeting was held in a cordial, comradely atmosphere.

Cuba Exposes U.S. State Department 'Intrigues'

LD252021 Moscow TASS in English 1454 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Havana February 25 TASS—Cuba's Foreign Ministry circulated among journalists a copy of a classified document of the U.S. Department of State containing directives for U.S. diplomatic missions abroad. The instructions are aimed at exonerating in the eyes of the world public Armando Valladares, a policeman in the times of the Batista dictatorship, a terrorist, who now heads the United States delegation to a regular session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. It is also sought to accuse Cuba of "violations of human rights". That document shows clearly that Washington is whipping up anti-Cuban hysteria.

Cuba's Foreign Ministry has also circulated a collection of its documents entitled "15 false claims concerning Valladares". The documents provide a well-substantiated refutation of the falsehoods of the U.S. Department of State.

The document of the Cuban Foreign Ministry emphasizes that the U.S. Department of State resorts to political manipulations, making allegations about "violations of human rights in Cuba", is grossly distorting facts. The information cited by the Cuban Foreign Ministry clearly shows that Valladares is not at all a "prisoner of conscience", the way the U.S. Department of State tries to present him. He is Washington's puppet used by the U.S. authorities and propaganda bodies in an anti-Cuban campaign.

Before the documents were circulated, Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister Miguel Brugueras gave a press conference. He emphasized that Washington, using false documents, misleads the public, the Congress of the United States, the governments of other countries, including its allies, as well as American diplomats.

Geneva February 25 TASS—Head of the Cuban delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Deputy Foreign Minister of Cuba Raul Roa gave a press conference in the Palace of Nations here today. He presented to the participants in the press conference real archive documents proving that Valladares was a member of the political police of the Batista dictatorship. He was arrested and sentenced after the victory of the revolution for preparing explosions in Havana's stores.

Raul Roa stressed that the U.S. Administration, specifically President Ronald Reagan, try to present Valladares to the United States allies and the world public as a "prisoner of conscience" symbolising the striving of humanity for freedom. But Valladares was serving a term in prison for 23 years not as a political prisoner but as a terrorist. The reputation of the "prisoner of conscience" was created for him by the U.S. propaganda under the direct influence of the current U.S. Administration. Raul Roa assessed as blasphemy President Reagan's words that Valladares will render a service to the U.S. dilomacy in exposing violations of human rights in Cuba.

Political & Social

Demonstrations Continue in Azerbaijan, Armenia

Demichev: Politburo 'Uneasy'

NC261351 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
1700 GMT 23 Feb 88

["Text" of message from Petr Nilovich Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to the workers of the Azerbaijan SSR; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends: The incidents in Nagorno-Karabakh have made the CPSU Central Committee Politburo uneasy. The unease is linked with the behavior of a number of Armenian and Azeri people of the Azerbaijan SSR, which is based on false information. Consequently, a serious and dangerous possibility for discord and even conflict between nations has been created, which may lead to unprecedented and negative results. I would like to point out right at the very beginning that the question of the Azerbaijan SSR's territory has been settled once and for all and that a change will not be effected in that regard. Nagorno-Karabakh will remain within the jurisdiction of the Azerbaijan SSR. I would like to make it clear that a cause or a reason does not exist for such a problem.

The multinational unity of various peoples has been created in the Soviet Union during the 70-year-long era of Soviet sovereignty. The peoples and nations in our country are working together and are consolidating their friendship. Each and every republic is multinational. This historic reality has enabled us to successfully realize various tasks, including those related to socialist construction. Democratization and the policy of openness are contributing toward the effort being made to further consolidate the friendship between our peoples. Our society's firm unity is gradually strengthening which, in turn, is helping our progress. This firm unity helped us ward off the threat posed to our country during the Great Patriotic War.

The Azerbaijan SSR has achieved great success in economic, social, and cultural development. The Azeri, Armenian, Russian, Georgian, and other peoples are working closely in Azerbaijan SSR. We appeal to the sound judgement of the Armenian and Azeri people. No matter what happens, the inter-national conflict provoked by extremist elements must be halted. Such a conflict will deal a blow to the peoples' friendship and to our sacred gains, deprive Armenian and Azeri families of a comfortable life, and encourage discord and aversion. Inauspicious feelings, which can cause nothing but grief, unhappiness, and tears, must not be allowed to prevail.

At this moment, each and every one of you must recall the memory of the best sons of the Armenian and Azeri people. The Azerbaijan SSR is a republic which has had its glorious revolution. It also has international traditions, which our effort is aimed at strengthening and developing. The 70-year-long history of the Soviet society has witnessed numerous attempts by our enemies to disrupt the friendship between our peoples. Various anti-Soviet elements have vested there hopes in this.

Even the slightest deviation from Lenin's national policy, which provides a sound perspective for our progress and for the effort made to strengthen socialism during the current era, will serve the interests of our enemies. The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Government feel confident that the Azeri and the Armenian peoples are imbued with the exalted feelings of patriotism and internationalism, that their intellectual perception will not be affected by any form of nationalist tendency, and that nationalist tendencies will not obstruct the effort they are making to realize the decisions adopted by the 27th CPSU Congress and the Central Committee plenums, including the significant tasks related to the question of restructuring.

Bagirov: No Transfers

NC261417 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
1700 GMT 23 Feb 88

["Text" of "appeal" from Kyamran Bagirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, to the workers of the Azerbaijan SSR; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends: As outlined by the Republic's radio and television network, a number of people in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast have called for the inclusion of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast within the Armenian SSR. All this has created a state of political irresponsibility. This state of affairs has been caused by the provocative and [word indistinct] initiatives and activities of a number of individuals. As a result, a tense situation has been created, various anxieties have emerged, and malicious discussions have taken place. Undoubtedly, this state of affairs has made the people of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and those in the other cities and rayons in our Republic feel uneasy. This unease has been felt more noticably particularly in the rayons which have common boundaries with the autonomous oblast.

The reports that Nagorno-Karabakh will be affiliated with the Armenian SSR are unfounded. Such rumors conflict with the Constitution of the Soviet Union and with the Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR. In fact, such thoughtless activities are aimed at creating an argument on the essence of the policy pursued by the CPSU and the Soviet state in accordance with Lenin's national policy. They are also aimed at disrupting the centuries-old friendship between the many generations of the [word indistinct] Armenian and Azeri peoples.

The CPSU Central Committee has made a serious political and [word indistinct] in connection with the incidents in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Central Committee has decided that any move to reconsider the national land structure in that region will conflict with the interests of the workers in the Azerbaijan SSR and the Armenian SSR. This will harm relations between the nations.

On behalf of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers, and in accordance with their instructions, I wish to appeal to the Communists and to all the workers in the Republic to urge them to act with an exalted sense of civic responsibility and with discipline. They must see to it that social order is not disrupted and that rumors and insincere [word indistinct] are effectively removed.

The Azerbaijan workers have always been inspired with an exalted and sincere sense of internationalism. We are firmly convinced that they will remove the existing difficulties and channel their strength toward the effort made in the current era of reconstruction to realize the significant tasks established by the CPSU Central Committee plenum that was held in February.

Kevorkov Dismissal Reported

NC260931 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast Party Committee held a plenum on 23 February. The plenum discussed the question of organization. In view of the deficiencies he has allowed to exist in work, the plenum removed Boris Kevorkov from his position as first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast Party Committee and member of the Party Committee Bureau. (Khachatusyan), formerly first deputy chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast Soviet Executive Committee and chairman of the Autonomous Oblast Agroprom, was elected chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast Party Committee.

Kyamran Bagirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, addressed the plenum. Vasiliy Konovalov; Tel'man Orudzhev; Rauf Akhundov; (Kongrachev), CPSU Central Committee sector chief; and Yashin, a responsible functionary of the CPSU Central Committee, participated in the work of the plenum.

'Nationalist' Protests in Yerevan

NC251445 Tehran Television Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Feb 88

[From Network 2]

[Text] Nationalist demonstrations were held in Yerevan, the capital of the Soviet Republic of Armenia, yesterday with the participation of over 200,000 people who once again called for an urgent session of the republic's parliament to discuss the annexation of the region inside the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Armenian Republic. Wednesday was the second consecutive day on which nationalist rallies were held in Yerevan. The Soviet Union's Communist Party's Central Committee has rejected the demand by the Armenian Republic to return their Karabakhskaya region to its territory.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov, commenting on the demonstrations in Yerevan, admitted that the dispute over the region has turned into widespread street rallies, but he added that the demonstrations have so far been peaceful.

Demonstrations Spreading

AU251509 Paris AFP in English 1453 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, Feb 25 (AFP)—Thousands of nationalists seeking the return to Armenia of a mountainous region ceded to neighbouring Azerbaijan held renewed demonstrations in the Armenian capital of Yerevan on Thursday, witnesses said.

The witnesses—travellers who arrived by plane here from Yerevan—said that the latest demonstrations were even bigger than those which had assembled around 200,000 people in the city centre on Wednesday.

They gave varying estimations of the numbers of people in the streets, from tens of thousands to half a million.

The autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh, where the predominantly Roman Catholic Armenians make up 80 per cent of the population of 160,000, was attached to Muslim-dominated Azerbaijan in 1923. Protests in the Armenian capital calling for the region's return to Armenia have continued for the last two weeks.

The travellers said that the protests, which originally were concentrated in the centre of Yerevan, had spread to the outskirts. They added that they had seen long lines of Armenians travelling on foot from neighbouring towns and villages to join in the demonstrations. They also reported rumours of deaths in clashes between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh. Bus services between Yerevan and Karabakh had been suspended.

Telephone lines between Yerevan and Moscow, which had functioned normally up to Wednesday, went dead on Thursday.

The unrest has already led to one major sacking—on Wednesday, the Communist Party leader of Nagorno-Karabakh for the last 15 years, Boris Kevorkov, was dismissed for "shortcomings in his work". He was replaced by fellow ethnic Armenian Genrick Pogosyan, who had been first deputy chairman of the regional assembly.

Politburo member Vladimir Dolgikh, one of four senior Kremlin officials sent to the region, appealed for calm on Armenian television on Wednesday. He assured the local population that the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh would be discussed at a forthcoming Central Committee meeting on nationality problems announced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Phone Lines Cut

LD251827 Hamburg DPA in German 1511 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The spokesman for the Moscow group of the Frankfurt-based International Society of Human Rights (IGFM), Valeriy Senderov, began an "indefinite hunger strike" on Thursday in protest against the Soviet information policy about the unrest in Armenia. Nearly all the human rights campaigners in Moscow have had their telephones disconnected, said Senderov. Nor was it possible to call people in Armenia. He wanted to use the hunger strike to draw attention to the fact that the Soviet Union was a "concentration camp" as far as information was concerned.

Katusev Describes Situation

LD251821 Moscow TASS in English 1805 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Stepanakert (Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region) February 25 TASS—Deputy Procurator General of the USSR Aleksandr Katusev is now staying in Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan. A TASS correspondent asked him to characterise the situation in the region. He said: "At present explanatory work is being conducted among the population in the autonomous region with the aim of normalising the situation and asserting a businesslike atmosphere".

"A study of the situation on the spot shows that all sorts of rumours and inventions, that are being circulated mostly outside of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and for which gullible people often fall, are groundless. For instance, there was a rumour about a bandit attack by traffic militia officers on a car owned by a resident of Stepanakert. The rumour proved false. Still worse, there was a rumour about the murder of sixty Armenians although not a single person of Armenian nationality has fallen victim of murder", Aleksandr Katusev went on.

"Alas, gossip mongers are still quite numerous. To listen to them, it is impossible to live in the region. But I will not conceal that there have been offences punishable by criminal law. Each such offence is being investigated", the deputy prosecutor general of the USSR said further.

"At the same time I can say with a full sense of responsibility that the rights and lawful interests of working people are under reliable protection", he said.

Yerevan Persian Describes Incidents

NC252030 Yerevan International Service in Persian 1855 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Dear listeners, we invite you to listen to a radio report by the ARMENPRESS News Agency.

Since Saturday, meetings have been held in Yerevan in support for a request by the mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast to be separated from the Azerbaijan SSR and to be included in the Armenian SSR. The meetings were also held in support for a decision adopted at the extraordinary meeting of the People's Representatives' Council of Mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, dated 20 February 1988, on applying to the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijan and Armenian SSR's [words indistinct].

The participants in the meetings have issued statements and appeals addressed to the leaderships (?in the Soviet Union) and in the republic calling for support for the decision by the mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous oblast to be included in the Armenian SSR. [words indistinct] Karen Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian SSR Communist Party Central Committee; Grant Voskanyan, chairman of the Presidium of the Armenian SSR [title as heard]; Fadey Sarkisyan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR; and members of the Central Committee's Politburo met with representatives of the meetings' participants.

On 22 February 1988, Karen Demirchyan, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Armenian SSR Communist Party, delivered a speech on the republic's television. Presently the republic's party organization, regarding the implementation of the decision [break in transmission]

Aktivs Denounce 'Jews'

LD261118 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0300 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The Soviet Union: An extensive explanatory campaign with the aim of normalizing the situation is now being carried out in the mountainous Karabakh Oblast in Azerbaijan. This was announced by Aleksandr Katusev, USSR deputy procurator general, who visited this autonomous oblast.

Party aktivs were held in Baku and Yerevan and denounced the recent actions of nationalist Jews [zidu], the background to which involves the proposal of a group of inhabitants of Armenian nationality to annex the mountainous Karabakh Oblast to the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic. [In a similar report carried by Prague Domestic Service at 1000 GMT, the word "zidu" was also used. However, Prague International Service in Czech at 2230 GMT on 25 February broadcasts a report on these meetings that uses the word "zivlu," meaning "elements," instead.]

Armenian Party Aktiv Meets

NC260907 Yerevan Domestic Service in Russian 0630 GMT 26 Feb 88

[From the "Morning Meeting" radio journal]

[Text] The republican party aktiv discussed urgent measures on normalizing the situation in the capital of the Republic at a meeting held in Yerevan on 23 February. The party aktiv passed a resolution to endorse and adopt the guidance and implement the 21 February 1988 resolution of the CPSU Central Committee which relates to the events in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The meeting emphasized the special responsibility of the Republic's party aktiv, and considers that party gorkoms and raykoms, as well as the primary party organizations, must adopt decisive measures and head the task of normalizing [words indistinct] in the capital, as well as develop broad work among the masses of labor collectives. The adopted resolution [words indistinct] of the CPSU on the preparation of the CPSU Central Committee plenum on the problems of national policy and, in conjunction with other problems, examine all aspects of the question of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Troops Reportedly Flown In

LD261100 Hamburg DPA in German 0931 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow (DPA)—The unrest in the Soviet Republic of Armenia apparently escalated today. According to Paruir Arikian, the Armenian nationalist leader, some 200,000 people demonstrated today in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. On Thursday evening, airborne troops of the Soviet Army were flown to Yerevan, Arikian said today in a telephone call to Moscow. A recording of the call was made available to the GERMAN PRESS AGENCY (DPA) in Moscow from circles of civil rights activists.

No statement was available from the official Soviet side today concerning this. The Soviet press merely published a statement by Aleksandr Katusev, first deputy procurator-general of the USSR, saying that there had been no Armenian victims and that in some cases criminal investigations were being instituted.

According to Arikian, Vladimir Dolgikh, candidate member of the Politburo, admitted in a speech on Armenian television on Wednesday that there had been victims on both sides. Dolgikh "threatened" that there would be further victims if the unrest did not cease. Arikian stated that justice is suffering from "these contradictions" in the official version. "Such remarks only contributed to the demise of democracy, perestroyka, and glasnost."

According to Arikian, more and more people are coming out of factories and the environs of Yerevan into the city center. The airborne troops are mainly accommodated at the "Dynamo" sports complex. Arikian fears that there could be dangerous clashes. The crowd is so big that "everyone falls over like dominoes if just ten are pushed." The soldiers were told in the aircraft that the Armenians have instigated an insurrection and are seeking their independence, Arikian stated. "This is a lie."

The unrest mainly concerns the demand of the Armenians to incorporate the mountain region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which lies in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, into Armenia. About 80 percent of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh are Christian Armenians who feel culturally and economically disadvantaged from the Muslim Azaerbaijanis.

According to Arikian, the demonstrators carried banners with inscriptions such as: "Self-determination is not extremism," "We demand an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet," and "Muscovites, fulfill our just demands." On a placard, Armenia is depicted as the mother and Nagorno-Karabakh as the child stretching its arms out toward the mother.

Arikian went on to state that a special statement has been announced for Friday noon local time on Armenian television. "What it concerns is not known. It only says that it is very important."

Gorbachev Message

LD261630 Yerevan Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Address to the workers and peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, read by Vladimir Dolgikh, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee—live]

[Text] Respected comrades: Allow me on behalf of the CPSUCentral Committee to read an address by Comrade Gorbachev, the CPSU Central Committee general secretary, to the workers and peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Dear comrades, I am addressing you in connection with evengs in Nagorno-Karabakh and associated issues. The question has been raised of transferring this autonomous oblast from the Azerbaijan SSR into the structure of the Armenian SSR. Acuteness and drama have been attached to this question which has led to tension and even actions going beyond the framework of legality.

I must say frankly that the CPSU Central Committee has been disturbed by this turn of events. It is fraught with serious consequences. We do not wish to evade a frank discussion of various ideas and proposals. But this must be done calmly, within the framework of the democratic process and legality, without allowing even the slightest damage to the internationalist cohesion of our peoples. The most serious question of the people's destiny cannot be placed in the power of spontaneity and emotion. It is very important that when we assess our concerns we do not only consider local conditions but also take into account the processes of revolutionary renewal developing in the country.

Yes, in our life there are unsolved problems. But fomenting of dissension and distrust between peoples will only interfere with the solution of these problems. This runs counter to our socialist principles and our morals, and to the traditions of friendship and fraternity among Soviet peoples.

We live in a multinational country. Moreover, all the republics, many oblasts, and even some of our towns and settlements are multinational. The point of Lenin's nationalities policy is that every person, every nation, should be able to develop freely, so that every people may satisfy its needs in all spheres of social and political life, its mother tongue and culture, its customs and religious beliefs.

Socialist internationalism is the source of our tremendous strength. Genuine fraternity and unity of the people constitute our path. The great Armenian poet Saryan, addressing Soviet Azerbaijan, put it rather well: In the name of past immeasurable suffering, in the name of life that has [words indistinct], in the name of friendly union and creative work, we send to our fraternal people greetings [the above sentence in verse]. How much these words have in common with those of the great son of the Azerbaijani people, Vurgun: We live not as neighbors but with each other; our peoples from time immemorial took fire from each other for the hearth and [words indistinct].

No mother will agree to having her children threatened by national dissension instead of the firm bonds of friendship, equality, mutual aid, of the truly great acquisition of socialism.

Not a few shortcomings and difficulties have accumulated in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. The new leadership of the oblast must adopt urgent measures to remedy the situation. In this regard, the Central Committee of the CPSU Has issued very precise recommendations and will be watching closely for their fulfillment.

At the moment what is most important is to concentrate on overcoming the existing situation, on solving concrete economic, social, ecological, and other problems that have accumulated in Azerbaijan and Armenia, in the spirit of the policy of perestroyka and renewal that is being realized throughout our country. The traditions of friendship between the Azerbaijan and Armenian peoples that have been built up in the years of Soviet rule must be cherished and strengthened in all their aspects. Only such an approach corresponds to the genuine interests of all the peoples of the USSR.

You know that it is intended to devote a special plenum of our party's central Committee to the development of national relations. It is planned to discuss a wide range of questions on this most important social sphere and, on the basis of principled gains of Lenin's nationalities policy, to mark out the paths for the concrete solution of social, economic, cultural, and other problems.

We are all Soviet citizens together. We have a common history, joint victories; we have gone through great labor and suffered griefs and losses; we have embarked on the great task of perestroyka on the success of which depends the destiny of socialism, our fatherland and each one of us.

I address, comrades, your conscience, your sense of responsibility, and your common sense. Let us uphold our Soviet internationalism in this ordeal as well, with unwavering faith in the fact that only in a friendly family of all our peoples can we ensure the progress of our society, and the welfare of all its classes. I call on you to display civic maturity and restraint, return to normal life and work, and observe social order. The hour for reason and sober decisions has struck. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

Message Arouses 'Indignation'

AU261310 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Moscow, Feb 26 (AFP)—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev appealed Friday for an end to protests by Armenian nationalists in the country's south and promised to respond to their grievances, officials said.

But witnesses reached by telephone in the Armenian capital of Yerevan said Mr. Gorbachev's first public statement on the situation was greeted with indignation by militants and the demonstrations continued. [passage omitted]

Armenians arriving here said up to half a million people demonstrated Thursday in Yerevan, where Soviet troops were deployed. Similar demonstrations on previous days were said to have drawn between 100,000 and 200,000 people.

The Soviet deputy prosecutor-general, Alexander Katusev, was in Nagorno-Karabakh where it was rumoured that as many as 60 Armenians had been killed in fighting between ethnic Armenians and Azerbaijanis.

The TASS news agency quoted Mr. Katusev as denying that any Armenians had been killed. But dissident sources in Moscow quoted alternate Politburo member Vladimir Dolgikh as saying Wednesday on Armenian television that there had been "casualties".

Mr. Dolgikh, one of four top Soviet officials who flew to Armenia early this week, read Mr. Gorbachev's speech in Yerevan, officials of the Armenian mission in Moscow said.

The address was also broadcast over Azerbaijan radio and television, according to a journalist with the local Communist Party newspaper, BAKINSKI RABOCHI.

Mr. Gorbachev stressed that the problems posed by the Armenian nationalists could not be resolved in a heated climate and would take time to sort out. He appealed to the "people of Armenia and Azerbaijan" to stay calm.

The Soviet leader urged Armenians who had gone on strike in recent days to return to work pending a party Central Committee plenum devoted to the nationalities problem.

Many businesses in Armenia and in Nagorno-Karabakh, where three-quarters of the 160,000 people are Armenian, have shut down to show their support for the nationalists.

A resident of Yerevan said Mr. Gorbachev's appeal was broadcast over loudspeaker in the Opera Square where the protests were centered. He said it drew angry responses from nationalists who saw nothing concrete in response to their demand for reintegration of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nationalist militant Paruir Arikian said Soviet soldiers were still deployed around key buildings in the center of Yerevan and the university. He said special units had arrived Thursday from Moscow.

Telephone communications between Yerevan and Western journalists in Moscow, which had been cut for much of Thursday, were restored on Friday.

Nagorno-Karabakh Economic Growth Reviewed

LD252043 Moscow TASS in English 1624 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Baku February 25 TASS—Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous region of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic in the Caucasus, is dynamically developing. In many fields of economy and culture this region with a predominantly Armenian population has higher indicators than the average for Azerbaijan. This was stated in a TASS interview by Ayaz Mutalibov, deputy chairman of Azerbaijan's Council of Ministers and chairman of the Azerbaijan State Planning Committee.

The region's economic development, he said, is due to close cooperation and links with other parts of the republic. Nagorno-Karabakh is supplied with equipment, metal products, building materials, fuel, energy, raw materials and consumer goods. In turn, the autonomous region produces electrotechnical instruments, silk fabrics and foodstuffs.

Industry holds the leading place in the economy of Nagorno-Karabakh, Mutalibov said, and its output has increased more that three-fold in the last fifteen years. Nagorno-Karabakh's economic potential will grow substantially with the completion of a big plant to produce farm machines and the expansion of the electrical engineering plant.

Two reservoirs are being built in the mountains and will ensure a further growth of agriculture, Mutalibov said further. Grain and vegetable harvests in Nagorno-Karabakh are high while the volume of state procurement from farm cooperatives is much lower than the average figure in Azerbaijan, this giving local farmers an opportunity to dispose of their produce as they see fit.

The autonomous region is linked with all of Azerbaijan's industrial centres by a railway and motor roads. A trunk pipeline delivers gas from Baku oil fields to settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mutalibov drew the TASS correspondent's attention to the big programme of social development in Nagorno-Karabakh. He remarked that the availability of housing in Nagorno-Karabakh is higher than the per capita average in Azerbaijan. The region also has more child-care centres, hospital beds and libraries in the per capita estimation than the average figures for the republic.

After citing these figures Azerbaijan's deputy premier said that inter-ethnic relations in Nagorno-Karabakh had become tense lately as a result of irresponsible calls and actions by some individuals. Attempts are being made to substantiate demands to hand this region from Azerbaijan to the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic by claiming that the region is economically backward. These claims are groundless. Nagorno-Karabakh became part of Soviet Azerbaijan in 1923 and the above cited figures disprove these contentions, Mutalibov said.

Armenians, Azerbaijanians, Russians and representatives of other peoples of the USSR live as a family in Nagorno-Karabakh and are multiplying their region's wealth, Mutalibov stressed. This region has never been short-changed in anything and never will be, and its rights are guaranteed by the constitution of the USSR, Mutalibov said in conclusion.

U.S. 'Interference' in Estonia Protested

[PRAVDA 25 Feb]

PM251455 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 88 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Rebuff to the Transatlantic 'Tutors'"]

[Text] Tallinn, 24 Feb—The political fervor applied by U.S.congressmen in their umpteenth attempt to rewrite the history of the peoples of the Soviet Baltic region only goes to prove their total ignorance on this subject.

This was the unanimous opinion of the thousands of participants in a rally of working people from the capital of Soviet Estonia today, at which they expressed resolute protest against the attempts by U.S. legislators to interfere in the sovereign republic's internal affairs. This time, the transatlantic politicians have chosen the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of the Estonian bourgeois republic on 24 February 1918 as pretext for their provocations.

The statement by those participating in the rally, sent to the U.S. Congress and President R. Reagan, says that "the history of the Estonian people's revolutionary struggle begins with the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The Estonian people reaffirmed their historical choice in favor of socialism in the summer of 1940."

Victory Square in Tallinn. This was the place where, back in June 1940, Estonia's working people demanded that power be placed in the hands of the people. The square was crossed by battalions of Estonian patriots on their way to fight the fascist occupiers. This square also holds memories of 9 May 1945, when the Soviet people celebrated victory over Hitlerite fascism. Today it was crowded with delegations sent here by collectives from enterprises, institutions, organizations, and educational establishments. Workers and students were there, as were school pupils and students and representatives of the creative intelligentsia. Slogans and banners shimmered in the breeze above the square. The inscriptions read: "Stop Interfering in our Internal Affairs," "Long Live the Estonian SSR," "Long Live the Friendship Between the USSR Peoples."

The rally was opened by Tallinn Gorispolkom Chairman Kh. Lumi.

Party and labor veteran D. Kuzmin, who addressed the rally, recalled the "blessings" of the bourgeois system in Estonia, when hundreds of patriots languished in prison cells. "The latest U.S. fabrication," he emphasized, "is evidently dictated by a desire to harm the improvement of Soviet-U.S. relations and to torpedo the incipient nuclear disarmament. Evidence of this can also be seen in G. Shultz's message to Estonian emigre bosses."

"What could Senator Donald Riegle, who is lamenting Estonia's bourgeois freedoms, have in common with my people," Hero of Socialist Labor L. Vammus, construction industry worker and honorary citizen of Tallinn, said indignantly at the rally. "I am convinced that neither the handful of anti-Soviet extremists nor their transatlantic stage managers will ever succeed in sowing dissension among the peoples of the Soviet Union."

T. Kolk, student at the polytechnical institute, described the provocative statements by Western radio stations as a direct insult of national feelings. "It is humiliating," the young Estonian declared, "to be lectured from across the ocean on how to organize your life and how to interpret your history. The Estonian people's path to socialism was not easy. Even now the republic has its fair share of problems. But we intend to solve them by ourselves, without any prompting by the U.S. Administration."

The calls by extremist elements for illegal actions and the attempts by certain U.S. circles to interfere in the Estonian SSR's internal affairs were condemned in speeches at the rally by Hero of Socialist Labor Academician K. Rebane, president of the Estonian SSR Academy of Sciences; E. Pyldroos, chairman of the Estonian SSR Artists Union Board; Hero of Socialist Labor V. Liyv, USSR Supreme Soviet deputy and worker at the "Talleks" Association; USSR Honored Master of Sports Ya. Talts, Olympic champion and several times world champion and record holder; M. Raydma, teacher at Tallinn's No 44 secondary school; and others.

The statement emphasizes that Estonian's working people will not allow anyone to raise a hand against restructuring, democracy, and glasnost. They will not let anyone shake the friendship and brotherhood of Soviet peoples or hinder cooperation in the strengthening of socialism in the USSR, our multinational motherland.

Estonian Minister Says Offenses Declining

LD251955 Moscow TASS in English 1847 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Tallinn February 25 TASS—Correspondent Arvo Laud writes:

"Those circles in the United States which hoped that anti-Soviet demonstrations will take place in Estonia in accordance with their script on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the Estonian bourgeois republic should be disappointed once again", said the mayor of Tallinn Harri Lumi. [passage omitted]

The TASS correspondent also visited Estonia's Minister of Internal affairs Marko Tibar. The minister said that not a single criminal offence was registered in the republic on February 24. He said that only about 60 persons were detained for violating anti-alcohol legislation and that in general there was a decline in the number of offences in Estonia in recent days.

Support for USSR Asserted

LD252038 Moscow TASS in English 1631 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tallinn February 25 TASS—"The Estonian people have strongly denounced attempts by American congressmen and Western propaganda to interfere in the affairs of this sovereign Soviet Republic," Arnold Ruejtel, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of Estonia, has said in a TASS interview.

"The working people are unanimous in supporting the policy of democratic change in society, whose substance has been and remains socialism."

Ruejtel went on to say that after joining the USSR, the Estonian people had gained a possibility to develop their national economy intensively. The industry of this republic whose population was under 1.5 million, he said, exported products to 64 countries in five continents.

"Take any aspect of the republic's economy and you'll see results of joint efforts by Soviet peoples.

"According to scientific estimates, the Baltic region needs more than 400 economic sectors to be able to develop effectively. Estonia has only 150 such sectors. The rest of the products are delivered mostly from the neighboring constituent republics."

"The Soviet constitution," Ruejtel said, "gives all Soviet people equal rights. Despite the fact that Estonia accounts for less than one percent of the Soviet population, it has equal representation with the other republics on the Soviet of Nationalities (one of the two Soviet parliamentary houses) and at the USSR Supreme Court."

Speaking of the perestroyka (restructuring) drive in Estonia, he said it had found understanding and support among the Estonian people.

"It is only individual bureaucrats and philistines that are exerting braking influence on it. The processes of democratization and glasnost (openness) under way in Soviet society have had a marked effect on the economic, social and cultural development of Estonia," Ruejtel said.

Hero Criticizes Distortions of Estonian History

PM251651 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 88 Morning Edition p3

[Unattributed interview with A.K. Meri, former first secretary of the Estonian Komsomol, under the heading "The Firm Hand of History. Distortion Is a Senseless Occupation"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Arnold Konstantinovich Meri is a respected person in Estonia. He was one of the first Komsomol members in the bourgeois Estonian Army. He served in the Red Army and in July 1941 he was the first Estonian to be awarded the lofty title Hero of the Soviet Union. In 1945 he was elected first secretary of the Estonian Komsomol Central Committee. In 1949 he was wrongly accused of forming a terrorist youth organization, dismissed from the party, and stripped of his title Hero of the Soviet Union. He was fully rehabilitated after the 20th party congress. He was Estonian deputy minister of education for 19 years. He currently heads the republic's Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. We asked A.K. Meri to talk to our newspaper about certain trends in Estonian life today.

[Meri] Until quite recently we veterans had to act like VIP's at a wedding at our meetings with young people. All was decorum and ostentation. We only talked about the feats we had achieved and were asked no questions which went beyond the bounds of this mandatory program, so to speak. It was the done thing to talk about difficult, complicated periods of the past years in general terms only. As to when this had become the done thing and who decided that this should be so—that is another matter.

Now, however, I go to these meetings with pleasure. This is because people talk with interest about the most vital issues without looking over their shoulder; they discuss the reasons why new ideas are being so slowly introduced and why departmentalism and bureaucracy are still so strong. However, problems concerning the past and the so-called "gaps" of which there are a fair number in Estonian history possibly provoke more questions and disputes than any other subject. This interest is natural. But it is harder to understand the reasoning of those people who so readily latch onto the stream of tendentious "information" about the past which is disgorged by Western radio stations and then go on to present this "information" in the republic's press.

Quite a lot has been written recently, for example, on the 1939 Soviet-German treaty sometimes known as the "Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact"—this title, incidentally, was coined from foreign publications. Unsubstantiated claims are being made that this treaty (or, to be more precise, some "secret protocols" to it) envisaged the partition of Eastern Europe, including the annexation of Estonia to the USSR.

The far-fetched nature of this interpretation of events is refuted not only by the absence of any reference in any known text of the treaty to Estonia's being annexed to the Soviet Union but also by the total disregard for the feeling with which the overwhelming majority of Estonians strove to restore Soviet power.

I remember how in October 1939 my mother, certainly not a politically-minded person, said as she saw me off for my term of service in the bourgeois Estonian Army:

"If war should break out, make sure you're on the Red Army's side."

This is how most Estonians felt. They made their choice in July 1940—and achieved the establishment of Soviet power in the republic. At that time I was a driver in a tank regiment and witnessed revolutionary demonstrations by Tallinn workers. They were supported by virtually everyone living in the city. Tens of thousands of people in Tallinn demanded that the State Duma immediately restore Soviet power and incorporate Estonia into the Soviet Union.

Here is another example of, shall we say, an uncritical attitude to historical facts. Recently the republic's newspaper SIRP YA VASAR (Sickle and Hammer) published an article whose author analyzed information on the number of people exiled from Estonia on the eve of the war. The article claims that Estonians' disillusionment with Soviet power was a direct consequence of this action which, it goes without saying, was completely unjustified (many totally innocent people were among those deported). Hence the alleged mass defections to the German side during the war and the gangsterism in the first postwar years.

There were betrayals, of course. But they certainly were not the result of "disillusionment" with Soviet power. After Soviet power was established in Estonia it still had a considerable number of secret enemies. They were even to be found among military servicemen in the 22d Territorial Corps founded on basis of the old bourgeois army. I myself served in this corps and remember how, in the first days of the war, matters went as far as armed skirmishes with those who continued to hate Soviet power even after they had donned the Red Army uniform. But the traitors were in the minority. According to archive material, 23 percent of the servicemen in this corps perished in the first months of the war against fascism and 42 percent disappeared without trace. To brand them all traitors would be tantamount to mocking the memory of those who were tortured in concentration camps or fell on the battlefield. It would be criminal and blasphemous to rank them all indiscriminately as traitors.

You do not have to be particularly perceptive to realize that "gaps" like these inevitably contribute to fanning nationalism and dovetail with the efforts of Western radio stations pursuing the same aims. We should not forget that back in the seventies a second generation of Sovietologists of Estonian origin proposed a plan to restore the bourgeois system in the republic in a roundabout way. They did not recommend opposing Soviet power or socialist ideas but working for the republic's withdrawal from the Soviet Union while retaining the present system. They had developed a phased program for the implementation of this plan, which included action to stir up nationalist sentiment. In August last year a small group of extremist dissidents organized a rally in Tallinn. The thrust of the slogans and the speeches that were heard at the rally had been determined by the provisions of that program.

I would like to touch on one more important aspect of this problem. Western propaganda's fanning of nationalist feeling does not only pursue "long-term" anti-Soviet aims. In inciting people to organize all manner of rallies, demonstrations, and other such actions, some people are trying to intimidate the waverers and those who are dubious about restructuring and to lend strength to the arguments of its opponents.

I repeat: It is stupid to advocate tougher censorship and a "tightening of the screws." But it would be naive to hush everything up in the assumption that the fuss will subside once people have had their say.

I will be frank: The activation of nationalist feeling is one of the sorry consequences of ideological and economic miscalculations made in recent years. Consequently, cutting back the roots of this ugly phenomenon—nationalism—will contribute to the success of restructuring and the solution of socioeconomic problems. Of course, there must also be a well considered, constructive approach to national problems; there is a lot to think about in this area, as a considerable number of problems have accumulated. But we Estonians and Soviet people will solve all these problems ourselves without any help from political hypocrites across the ocean.

Politburo Discusses Light Industry, Summit

LD252009 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] At its session on 25 February the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee examined the government's proposals on the technical re-equipping of light industry. It was noted in the discussion of this issue that significant attention has been devoted recently to the development of light industry. However, production of highly important types of output is growing slowly. Attempts to renew the range are weak, and the quality of production is rising at an insufficient rate. The situation that has taken shape was caused to a significant degree by lagging behind in technical aspects of production and the scientific base of light industry. In this sector, a large quantity of obsolete technical equipment is being used, and problems of improving of the workers' working, living, and leisure conditions are being solved slowly.

The Politburo approved the program for accelerating scientific and technical progress in light industry presented by the USSR Council of Ministers. It is envisaged to ensure a considerable rise in the production of goods and an increase in their quality from 1988 to 1995, on the basis of fundamental re-equipping of production and broad utilization of modern equipment and technology. Particular emphasis has been placed on expanding the output of products for children, young people, and the elderly and clothing and footwear for sports activities and active leisure, and on increasing the production of new, fashionable goods in high demand among the population.

Issues of the implementation of the USSR's power program and the development of electricity were examined. It was stressed that, in present conditions, reliable supplies of fuel and power to the national economy and satisfaction of the population's demand for those are especially significant and are a most important prerequisite for the practical implementation of the tasks of restructuring and the realization of an active social policy. It was noted that a number of highly important commitments envisaged by the USSR's power program are being fulfilled unsatisfactorily. Serious lagging behind in the electricity sector—the foundation for intensification of the economy and growth of labor productivity—is causing great concern. The USSR Ministry of Heavy Machinery is not producing the required volume of highly economical equipment and appliances; this is holding back the implementation of the energy-saving policy and the technical re-equipping and reconstruction of electric power stations. Managers in the sectors of the fuel and power and machine-building complexes were instructed to implement urgent measures to increase the growth of and make better use of production capabilities to ensure that the USSR's power program is fulfilled without fail. Particular attention must be devoted to intensifying the regime of saving fuel and power resources and to increasing the potential of machine-building in the power sector.

The Politburo discussed and approved the results of the conversations of Comrades Gorbachev, Ryzhkov and Shevardnadze with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz during his visit to Moscow. It was emphasized that the series of Soviet-U.S. political contacts at summit level have the very greatest importance for the implementation of the accords reached in Washington and for the intensification of joint work on questions of and the preparation of documents on a new summit meeting in Moscow. Concluding a treaty on a 50-percent reduction of strategic offensive armaments in conditions of observance of the ABM treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972 at the forthcoming meeting of the leaders of the United States and USSR would be a very big step toward a real reduction of nuclear arms and the strengthening of security for all. The Soviet initiatives put forward in the course of the talks are directed at imparting a new impetus to the search for mutually acceptable solutions to a wide range of disarmament problems, solving regional conflicts, improving Soviet-U.S. relations, and improving the world situation as a whole. The Soviet leadership is willing to go on tackling these problems in a calm and serious spirit, which demonstrates an understanding of the responsibility of the Soviet Union and the United States for the peaceful development of the entire international situation.

A report by Comrade Shevardnadze was heard. It dealt with the results of the Prague meeting of foreign ministers of the member-states of the Warsaw Pact. The Politburo noted with satisfaction that the meeting showed that the allies unanimously support the USSR's constructive and consistent line in relations with the United States, which has been determined in consultation with them.

The session of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee also examined certain other matters of the economic and social policy of the Communist Party and of the Soviet state.

Demichev, Razumovskiy Attend Music Soiree

LD190055 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 18 Feb 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] A festive meeting dedicated to the 70th birthday of prominent Soviet Azerbaijan composer Karakarayev was held today in the Hall of Columns of the House of the Unions in Moscow. Comrades Demichev and Razumovskiy were in the presidium. First secretaries of the Communist Parties of Azerbaijan Georgia and Armenia—Comrades Bagirov, Patiashvilli, and Demirchyan, respectively—Comrade Voronov, deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee Culture Department, and representatives of party, soviet and public organizations, and culture were also in the presidium. Tikhon Nikolayevich Khrennikov, first secretary of the board of the USSR Composers Union who opened the soiree, rapporteur Elvira Kafarova, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Council of Ministers, and other speakers spoke about Karakarayev as a great and inimitable artist who has enriched national culture. [passage omitted]

Leaders Appear in Honor Guard for Ovchinnikov

LD221624 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Today Moscow saw off on his last journey a prominent scientist and organizer of science, Academician Yuriy Anatoliyevich Ovchinnikov. Comrades Vorotnikov, Zaykov, Ligachev, Nikonov, Yakovlev, Talyzin, Baklanov, and Medvedev stood in the guard of honor. A funeral meeting was held at the Novodevichye cemetry where Academician Ovchinnikov is buried.

IZVESTIYA Editorializes on February Plenum

PM241637 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Editorial: "The Ideology of Restructuring"]

[Text] Recently, 3 and 1/2 months ago, the country celebrated the 70th anniversary of Great October. The analysis of the ground covered, made in connection with the October jubilee, the interpretation of the changes that had taken place since the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum and 27th party congress, and the advancement of the tasks that have arisen in the course of restructuring—all this gave our lives considerable intellectual and moral momentum.

But a little more time has passed, and it is clear that the course of restructuring, the economic reform, and the democratization of public life demand a clarification of the perspective and adjustment of the actions and an approach to accumulated issues taking into account the new demands.

Many of these issues have arisen and will continue to arise in the economy, culture, and the social and political spheres. Approaches to their solution will vary depending on specific conditions. But the one constant, decisive factor has been and remains human beings, their political, intellectual, and moral complection, their expertise, their patriotism and internationalism, their creative ability, their civic stance and activeness.

These problems were the theme of CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev's great speech at the 17-18 February party Central Committee plenum. The speech is now being discussed extensively everywhere and will certainly be the focus of public attention, at home and abroad, for a long time.

The human factor took pride of place in all the party Central Committee plenum's work. Two facts contributed to this. First, the plenum agenda, suggested by life itself: The restructuring of schools at all levels, education, and instruction. The problems here are acute and solutions are long overdue. It is clear that in order to make the revolutionary transition to a new state society needs educated, convinced citizens devoted to socialism and, at the same time, active, searching people who know how to live and work in conditions of democracy, collectives' economic independence, and economic and social responsibility for oneself and the country—this is the question posed by the times and this is the way it was put at the plenum.

Can the education system train and raise such individuals by itself? Of course not. The very process of the restructuring of our life will increasingly be its assistant or, rather, the chief instructor of people.

The second fact intensifying the role of the human factor and attracting the plenum participants' attention to it is the period our society is going through. It is not easy. So hard and unusual is it that no conventional propaganda stereotype can suitably describe it. In fact, the course of renewal was taken nearly 3 years ago and it has been concretized by subsequent plenums and by a series of directive documents. The result is that by and large a program, for example, has been established for the replacement of the obsolete economic management mechanism with a new one in which the emphasis is on enterprise commercial viability and self-financing, expansion of the cooperative sector of the economy, and development of the individual labor sphere as part of social labor. Only the first steps have been taken in establishing these principles in economic life. But already, at the start of the changes, it is clear how hard many, perhaps the majority, are finding it to assimilate the new and give up all the old habits, rules, and standards. Some of us are still not feeling in our lives the full depth of renewal. In other cases people's interests have been affected, but people have not grasped its significance. On entering the wide stage, restructuring has not only posed many new organizational, legal, and other issues, but, as was admitted at the plenum, it has given urgency to questions which were considered solved already. In the same economy, for example, labor collectives' independence, as envisaged by the Law on the State Enterprise (Association) in such matters as drawing up plans or distributing some of the economic accountability profit, in fact ran into attempts at rigid planning of production targets from on high and efforts to take charge of enterprise profits. In the same way, the right to elect competent and energetic people and place them at the head of collectives encounter a hostile reception here and there, a desire to manipulate and pressurize the collective from on high again.

This makes some people doubt the success of the changes that have been initiated. Others, however, find they have to act without delay when democracy and rights are portrayed as a gift from on high. But, generally speaking, in these conditions people want to better understand the nature of the changes and find their place in restructuring, their interest. It is no secret that it does not always coincide with the common interest. Then there is a struggle, a conflict of interests. You will agree that not so long ago the very words "struggle" and "conflict," as applied to our internal affairs would have put one on one's guard. Now, however, these words, pronounced at the plenum, reflect the reality of our life and are a further confirmation that development is the result of conflicts and the struggle between different interests and opinions. These conflicts and this struggle were once the norm of party life. A Leninist norm, as a result of which the correct decisions were the outcome of a joint quest.

So, gradually, restructuring is not only introducing more and more new elements into our life, but it is also reviving the valuable things that have been lost at various times. The things that are capable of freshening the atmosphere of our life and illuminating its ideals. On the question of ideals there has been lately an element of conflict in some minds. One could cite entire letters on this from the IZVESTIYA mailbag. Calling, for example, for greater vigilance toward the increasing momentum of commodity-money relations, which allegedly threaten to "undermine" the foundations of socialism, no less. For others, however, it has become fashionable to mouth concepts borrowed from the arsenal of bourgeois theories. There is a similar conflict when it comes to assessing other phenomena of our life. The plenum stated: This situation is due to the scale of restructuring, its deepening and attainment of new targets. One might add that it is also due to the inadequate theoretical substantiation of the renewal that has begun in the country.

One might ask: Have questions of the theory of socialism and restructuring been inadequately elaborated in the party documents of recent years? And do the asessments they give need to be clarified and adjusted? Pertinent questions. But it must be borne in mind, first, that life is changing today more quickly than the theoretical interpretation of the changes. Second, for many years, theory and the social sciences have not only been developing in isolation from life and its complexities, but they have been presented to people in a final, fully realized form that cannot provide food for thought. And just as, in the social sphere, leveling gives rise to apathy and parasitism, in ideology the expectation of unthinking, dutiful assimilation of theory led to intellectual parasitism, which manifested itself either in blind devotion to schemes which have lost contact with life or, on the other hand, in people's willingness to smartly change their views under the influence of virtually every new, sometimes entirely fortuitous trend—a book, an article, even a rumor—and to an inability to apply theory independently in practice. This limited people's opportunities to make conscious choices in the complex pattern of life, develop independent beliefs and an ability, where necessary, to defend them. No, it is not this passivity that restructuring needs, but tireless, systematic intellectual and spiritual labor.

Our party, armed with scientific knowledge of the past, present, and of the trends which have a real prospect of development, is supposed to take charge of the procsses of shaping socialist consciousness. It is the party that can and must provide the theoretical exegesis of the new stage of socialist building taking into account all the innovations that restructuring brings along. The plenum stressed that it is necessary to select and arm the the whole of society with those things that really serve socialism, correspond to the interests of its development, and produce progress toward socialist goals, not some goals "borrowed" from someone else.

At the outset, when it advanced the restructuring strategy, the party was forced, in view of the specific situation, to concentrate on tackling the most urgent tasks. As restructuring unfolds, its general significance and meaning for the future of socialism is becoming increasingly apparent and is requiring interpretation. Ideological backup for the restructuring processes, their accurate interpretation, and bold, Leninist defense of and backing for ongoing positive changes are the paramount tasks of the day.

In view of this it is natural that we should keep on turning to Leninism, check against it both the achievements and omissions of past years, pinpoint the living and profoundly democratic and humane essence of socialism, and purge it of bureaucratic, voluntarist, and dogmatic distortions and contortions which have nothing to do with Marxism-Leninism.

A realistic, bold, and criticial analysis of reality that does not fear the truth—this is what has always distinguished genuine, creative Marxism-Leninism from the various imitations. So if something needs to be limited, it is, of course, not freedom of scientific quest and competition between minds and viewpoints, but attempts to monopolize the right to truth in the final instance. Indeed it is no secret that in theoretical matters it is not mistakes themselves that are harmful, but mistakes that are elevated to the status of undisputed truths.

In view of the need to better understand today's tasks, the plenum also talked about people's increased interest in history. There are different approaches here too. Some want to focus exclusively on the lacunae in our past; others ask: Isn't this excessive delving into history diverting us from the present and its problems?

Well, obviously, you cannot avoid extremes. However, the main thing is not simply to rid history of lacunae, but also to describe, objectively and from the positions of Marxist-Leninist science, these new historical facts with which the people are becoming acquainted. Not by erasing the past for expediency's sake and not by succumbing to subjectivism, but by accurately following the historical truth and objectivity, science is supposed to provide people with a clear idea of what constitutes the essence of socialism and what rsults from distortions of it and departures from its principles.

For the majority of us this is not of abstract, theoretical interest, but it must be a lesson, an important one in terms of restructuring, in terms of understanding its tasks and choosing the ways, means, and methods of tackling them. Restructuring, it was stressed at the plenum, if you take its spiritual dimension, is a decisive attempt to restore in everyone's eyes the enormous significance of the historical values of socialism, the main one of which is orientation toward the working man. It is putting forward ideas that are capable of uniting people on the basis of the diversity of human potential, interests, and abilities. It depends on the best human qualities. It appeals to people who live not by bread alone, and not even by modern material benefits, but, more than anything else by truth and conscience, justice and freedom, morality and humanity.

Life itself is constantly presenting people with a choice. What forms do you choose when organizing the work of a team, a shop or the entire collective of an enterprise? On what basis do you pay people, who do you choose as leader, what assignment do you give to whom? How do you organize relations with suppliers? How do you treat new phenomena in public life, literature, and art? Today the need to choose is stimulating activity, people's independence, their judgment and actions. There may still be much that is controversial and alien. But the healthy foundation, the just solution of burning issues, and normal day-to-day life in accordance with the principles of socialism will do the job—the plenum was confident about this.

The main thing here is democratization. It is the decisive means of attaining the goals of restructuring. It can get people actively involved in transforming life. It leads to the development of initiative and to instilling in people a sense of being in charge.

But there are still many obstacles on this path, erected by those who still prefer bureaucracy to democracy. As a rule, the motivation is self-interest—hanging on to power and privileges—and a reluctance to give up even some of them to innovators—to bold, enquiring people who do not fear what is new. There are tens of thousands of them today, there must be hundreds of thousands tomorrow, and millions the day after tomorrow.

Socialism is a society of enterprising people and itself represents the supreme initiative of history. The ways of organizing the masses' initiative can and must be as diverse as life itself.

But fear of initiative from below is distrust of the people, fear of life. It was said at the plenum that at the new stage of restructuring the party can ensure its leading, vanguard role and draw the masses into profound transformations only by using democratic methods of work. We have lost a great deal and we are continuing to lose a great deal because we have been unable to unchain people's initiative, creativity, and independence. This is the biggest, the most difficult, but also the most important task of restructuring. It is no exaggeration to say that today everything hinges on its solution.

Without initiative and without creative people no progress is possible. Let alone revolutionary changes.

The plenum stressed that it is necessary to tackle restructuring tasks in such a way as to stimulate people's initiative and independence as much as possible and overcome their passivity, civic flaccidity, apathy, and lack of independent thought—these are the defects of the bureaucratic-command style of leaders. It must be recognized that inhibiting forces exist in the spiritual sphere as well. And it is perhaps harder to overcome them and learn democracy here than in material production.

The plenum examined the ideological aspect of restructuring as closely related to the need to renew our political system and give it new content and dynamism which will ensure the successful development of our society. One of the chief tasks here is that of creating clear-cut democratic guarantees which will considerably reduce or completely banish subjectivism in solving questions at all stages of authority.

Above all the changes must affect the soviets, as bodies of people's political power, their work and formation.

Renewal must also take place in the system of public organizations, the purpose being to change the content and methods of their work. What you often get here are too much paperwork and the kind of armchair methods and style that are condemned in the work of party, soviet, and state bodies.

It is assumed that public organizations representing various social strata and groups in society and their interests will become extensively involved in the solution of state issues, and they already have pretty good experience of this.

During the preparations for the 19th party conference and in the course of its work the experience of the 3 years of restructuring will be thoroughly analyzed and the targets we have reached and are in the process of reaching, having launched the process of democratization and started to implement the radical economic reform, will be determined. Decisions will be elaborated and adopted on the improvement of society's political system and on the party's role in the new conditions. The conference will certainly give new momentum to the restructuring process.

The February plenum provided a through analysis of public life in our country at the new stage. Its documents put forward a program of work for all Communists, for everyone who cherishes and appreciates the goals of restructuring. The new tasks are captivating and they stimulate people to devote even more effort and thought to the great cause of renewing life.

Ukrainian Writers Discuss Nationality Problems

AU211650 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 14 Feb 88 p 3

[RATAU report: "Meeting in the Ukrainian Writers Union"]

[Text] Half a year has passed since the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee adopted the decision "On Measures To Implement in the Republic the Directives of the 27th Party Congress and the January (1987) CPSU Central Committee Plenum in the Sphere of Nationality Relations, and of Intensifying Internationalist and Patriotic Education." The fine arts intelligentsia, and in particular the republic's writers organization, have been actively engaged in implementing the measures.

A discussion of the progress made in implementing the decision of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee took place recently in the Ukrainian Writers Union. Reports were delivered by M.V. Fomenko, Ukrainian minister of education; Yu. A. Olenenko, Ukrainian minister of culture; Ye. M. Kadatskiy, chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education; N.F. Okhmakevich, chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting; Yu. P. Dyachenko, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and Book Trade; and Yu. M. Mushketik, first secretary of the board of the Ukrainian Writers Union.

Note was taken of the thorough work performed in the republic to educate the working people and the new generation, in the spirit of friendship among the peoples of the USSR and of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism, to meet the spiritual needs of the population and to tighten ties among nationalities.

A qualitatively new level has been reached in public political and artistic events which has been arranged with the participation of the fine arts intelligentsia, culture and education figures, professional and amateur teams. Efforts are being made to learn about and follow the best experience in ideo-educational work, as well as to make use in this work of the achievements of multinational socialist culture. More frequent cultural exchanges are being practiced with fraternal republics and among competing oblasts.

Books translated from 54 of the languages of the Soviet peoples are at present being published in the Ukraine. The circulation of Ukrainian-language editions comprises half of the total circulation. In selecting their subjects, publishing houses have paid more attention to the ethnic composition of the republic's population and to its needs in the sphere of education and culture. Improvements are being made in the fiction series. Provisions have been made for publishing libraries of historical prose, foreign literature, ancient Rus and Ukrainian annals, as well as the unknown or little known literary and fine arts heritage of Ukrainian cultural figures.

Educational institutions are improving their work to educate the younger generation about the materials of the homeland's history and culture. Improvements are being made in the curricula and textbooks for the Ukrainian language and literature, and for teaching the Ukrainian and Russian languages. Forty-nine schools offering extensive study of the Ukrainian language, literature, and history have been created.

The speakers tackled the problems involving the real participation of men of letters in training education and creative cadres, and in animating the entire literary and fine arts life in the republic.

The meeting participants responded favorably to the "Living Word" television broadcast, to subject broadcasts dedicated to ethnic art collectives, and to other new Ukrainian television and radio programs. Views were exchanged on the state of present-day Ukrainian theater and dramaturgy. The need was emphasized for more energetic efforts to observe language status and to cultivate the art of speaking in theaters.

Having noted the work carried out to implement the decision of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, writers O.T. Honchar, D.V. Pavlichko, L.M. Novichenko, V. P. Kozachenko, P. I. Osadchuk, and others spoke with concern about the insufficient number of Ukrainian-language schools in several oblast centers of the republic, and about the narrowed sphere left for the use of the Ukrainian language in business correspondence, visual agitation, and advertising. Shortcomings were noted in the work performed by individual party and state organs, educational and cultural institutions, and creative collectives to implement the aforesaid decision.

In summing up the results of the discussion, Yu.N. Yelchenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, emphasized the need to more tightly combine the efforts of party committees, education and culture organs, creative unions, and the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee to implement in practice the comprehensive program for the patriotic and internationalist education of the working people, to improve relations among nationalities, and to meet the spiritual needs of various ethnic groups of the population. The need was noted to overcome the lack of coordination in arranging various important events, to make full use of available reserves, and to increase the responsibility of the Ukrainian Writers Union and other creative organizations for implementing their own plans in this important work.

Participating in the discussion were B.V. Ivanenko and L.M. Kravchuk, department chiefs in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee; V.D. Parkhomenko, Ukrainian minister of higher and secondary special education; and V.I. Tsybukh, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee first secretary.

History of One-Party System Discussed

LD252234 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Here is some information about a briefing that took place today at the Novosti Press Agency [APN]. Over to our correspondent Yuriy Gordeyev:

[Gordeyev] It was an unusual briefing, first because there was an opportunity for questions to be asked not only by the Soviet and foreign journalists present at the press centre, but also by those of their colleagues who are not accredited to our country. The latter posed their questions by means of teleprinter communications. Second, it was unusual because the theme itself for the discussion was an unusual one: Blank spots of history—concerning the emergence of a one-party system in the USSR. Taking part were Dr of Philosophical Sciences Butenko; Dr of Historical Sciences Gusev; and Candidate of Historical Sciences Mukhachev.

Hitherto this subject has mainly been discussed abroad. In this connection the main theme to be heard has been, and is, a fairly monotonous one. The one-party system, it is claimed, is evidence of the absence of democracy in our country. We will return a little later to a discussion of this, but let us now turn to history in order to elucidate how and why it is that in our country today there exists just one party, the CPSU. Here is what was said on this by Rozental, the APN spokesman, who opened the briefing.

[Begin Rozental recording] The one-party system in the USSR is the result of the rejection by the leaders of the parties of Russian petit bourgeois democracy, which formed part of the Petrograd soviet of workers' and soldiers' deputies, and of the Bolsheviks' proposal that a multiparty Soviet Government be formed. The Mensheviks, the socialist revolutionaries, the popular socialists, and others came out openly against soviet rule, unleashing a bloody civil war in conjunction with the bourgeoisie. [end recording]

[Gordeyev] The journalists attending the briefing were able to see for themselves that this was precisely the case, and not only in Petrograd: They viewed an exhibition of documents that had been mounted at the press center. There is, for example, an appeal by Rudnev, the head of the town of Moscow, that he made on 27 October 1917. He appealed for the Bolshevik part of the soviet to be refused recognition. Notice that this had nothing to do with the socialist revolutionaries or the Mensheviks, who also formed part of the soviet, but the Bolsheviks. This means that Rudnev was proceeding in step and arm-in-arm with the petit bourgeois parties.

There is also an interesting document concerning the intervention in northern Russia. It is an appeal to the Russian people by the British Government. I quote: Russian people, join up with us to defend your liberties. What liberty means from the viewpoint of the British bourgeoisie becomes clear from the fact that during the year that Archangel was occupied, 8,000 people were executed by firing squad after being sentenced by the military court, which was made up of American, French and British people. It is fitting here too to recall that the occupiers appeared in our northern town at the call of the party of popular socialists. Rozental emphasized:

[Begin Rozental recording] The West may, I think, to a certain extent, regard itself as a co-author of our single party system. The wall of irreconcilability that was erected at the very origins of Soviet rule and the Soviet state called into being the syndrome of compulsion—that constant syndrome of compulsion that has existed throughout our history; frequently we have proceeded along paths that we did not like to travel. The paths proved harder than we should have liked. The irreconcilable hostility of the Russian and international bourgeoisie to the new system, and the attempt to stifle it while still an embryo, forced us, as Lenin said, to embark on a desperate and merciless struggle, and forced us into an immeasurably greater break-up of old relationships than we wanted. [end recording]

[Gordeyev] Many questions were asked, and they were most diverse in character. One question was addressed to candidate of historical sciences, Mukhachev.

[Begin Mukhachev recording] How far can we go in scientific debates with our foreign counterparts on questions relating to Soviet history? In my opinion we can go a long way, and we have always striven to go further than our Western counterparts. What is more, I should say that in our country, among our historians, the debates are being conducted considerably more sharply than the discussions with Western colleagues. [end recording]

[Gordeyev] Now, as agreed, let us return to democracy. The West considers that under our one-party system democracy takes root poorly. However, as Dr of Philosophical Sciences Butenko justly remarked, democracy does not depend on the number of parties but on the development of internal party democracy. We have many reserves in this respect and they have by no means been exhausted.

Philosopher Defends One-Party System

LD251530 Moscow TASS in English 1431 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—A well-adjusted one-party system is not an impediment to developing and strengthening the democratic foundations of society, a Soviet philosopher said today.

Dr. Anatoliy Butenko was speaking at a briefing at the Soviet Foreign Ministry's press center, which dealt with how the one-party system has come into being in the USSR.

He said it had resulted from events following the Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917. Lenin had not ruled out the participation of members of petty bourgeois parties in administering the country and for some time the Mensheviks and left-wing social revolutionaries had been represented on bodies of power along with the Bolsheviks.

But having come out against the popular system of government with arms in hands and appealed for aid to Western nations, the petty bourgeois parties had exposed their essence and suffered a political collapse, Butenko said.

"For many years these facts have not found a reflection in historical works, with a resultant false notion that the multi-party system has allegedly been dismantled by force," he continued.

"Now the truth of history has been restored: Works are being prepared on 'blank spots' in the period when the Soviet state was just getting on its feet."

Asked if a multiparty system could originate in the USSR again, Butenko said there was no need for it in present-day conditions, but theoretically it was possible, though only on condition that the other parties would have platforms expressing the interests of different sections of Soviet society.

A number of socialist countries, Butenko reminded the newsmen, each had several parties based on Marxist-Leninist ideology.

Professor Kirill Gusev of the Academy of Social Sciences said at the briefing that under the one-party system as well alternative standpoints were possible on various matters of running the state and the socio-economic development of society.

He said that was borne out by diverse debates now conducted at public meetings and in the press.

Soviet Policy on Religion Viewed

PM241614 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Feb 88 pp 1,4

[Sylvie Kauffmann dispatch: "Being a Believer in the USSR"]

[Text] Moscow—In the church of Izborskovo, near Pskov in western Russia, which has been turned into an archeological museum, the authorities have preserved an iconostasis at the end of the nave. However, it is in such a state of dilapidation that you can scarcely make out a figure of the Virgin and the infant Christ. "This is an example of the damage caused by believers," a guide solemnly explained. "People kissed this icon so much that it is beyond repair."

A few kilometers from there, Sunday service was being conducted in the cathedral: The very beautiful Orthodox monastery of Pechory, dominated by the figure of the archangel Michael, provides scenes from another age: women prostrating on the icy floor, mentally handicapped people brought there in the hope of a miracle cure, old men begging for a few kopeks.... Down below, monks with hair as long as their beards were moving toward the bells and the refectory which, apparently, lacks for nothing. Traditions are scrupulously observed here, in particular, the tradition of keeping women at a respectful distance from the monks, and especially from the archimandrite, their chief.

This region, which was attached to the USSR late—in 1940—did not experience the frenzied demolition of religious buildings by the Soviet Government in the twenties, and official atheist propaganda still has a great deal of work to do. However, judging from what has been written in PRAVDA recently, the party propagandists do not just need to concern themselves with the bigots of Pskov, but with a growing propensity among the Soviets to turn to religion.

With the approach of celebrations to mark the millenium of Christianity in Russia, for which the official festivities will start next June, Moscow is talking two languages—that of liberalism, intended to reassure the intelligentsia and the West, and that of atheist policy which, far from having been abandoned, is being vigorously reaffirmed to grass-roots Communists.

One of the main interpreters of the liberal language is Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the Soviet Government's Council of Religious Affairs, which is the equivalent of the ministry of religious affairs. In a few features published recently in the Soviet press and in an interview granted to LE MONDE in Moscow, Mr Kharchev, a lively man with great strength of conviction, made a critical examination of religious policy in the Stalinist era in the twenties, and of the "period of stagnation," which is now the official expression for the Brezhnev years.

Yes, he admitted, there have been excesses in the desire to "force the masses to abandon religion," and some local officials were overzealous. According to figures published for the first time in the USSR last November in the magazine SCIENCE AND RELIGIONS, in the past 25 years, in other words more or less since the end of the large-scale closure of churches, the number of religious communities (parishes) legally registered in the USSR has dropped by 34 percent and now numbers around 15,000. In 1966, the Orthodox Church had 7,523 parishes and 6,794 20 years later in 1986. In the same period, the Islamic religion dropped from 2,307 communities to 751. This fall, Mr Kharchev admitted, encouraged the emergence of clandestine mullahs in Central Asia, and they worry the authorities.

However, at the same time, religious practice was increasing in inverse proportion: The number of school-age children baptized increased from 10,261 in 1966 to 40,469 in 1986, and religious funerals from 848,805 to 1,179,051. Today between 10 and 20 percent of Soviets are believers, depending on the region, Mr Kharchev said. Religious practice "is tending to spread" in Moldavia, Tajikistan, Estonia, and in some areas of the Russian Federation, and the Ukraine.

"Against the Law" [subhead]

Over those years, the Soviet official lamented, there was "an incorrect interpretation of atheist education" and of the existing legislation, which is based essentially on two texts: the 1918 Leninist decree on the separation of church and state, and the 1929 law which governs the activity of religious communities in a very restrictive way. "For example," Mr Kharchev remarked, "there is nothing to prevent believers from performing their rites. They do not have to show their identification papers for that purpose. This unauthorized practice, implemented for baptisms for instance, developed with disregard for the law. Similarly, there is no legislation which prohibits the import of Bibles, which are not regarded as anti-Soviet literature."

On the basis of this discovery, Mr Kharchev advocated "maximum democratization of the existing legislation to return to the basic principles laid down by Lenin in the sphere of church-state relations: This legislation has sound bases, provided it is implemented." The aim is also to "change the moral atmosphere in the country by emphasizing the moral aspect of believers which can be positive." This is an idea which Mr Kharchev summed up in his own way by saying: "I prefer a sincere believer to an unscrupulous Communist."

Indeed, there has recently been a kind of moral rehabilitation of believers in the press, stressing the role they can play in the struggle for disarmament, and even in supporting restructuring. The hierarchy of the Orthodox Church, which spares no effort when it comes to supporting the government's pacifist initiatives, receives favorable treatment from the authorities. The most famous dissident Orthodox militants, like Aleksandr Ogorodnikov and Father Gleb Yakunin, were released 1 year ago from labor camps where they were serving sentences for anti-Soviet activities and they are undoubtedly tolerated.

However, their demands are far from being satisfied. The open letter which a group of committed Christians, including Mr Ogorodnikov and Father Gleb Yakunin, sent to Mr Gorbachev in May 1987 to ask for the annulment of several points in the 1929 law produced no result.

"Indeed," Andrey Bessmertnyy, one of these Christians, stressed, "none of what has been done for religion over the past 1 or 2 years could be swept away in 30 minutes [as published]. The changes have no legal basis. This is the whole problem of the precarious nature of glasnost and democratization." With regard to the monasteries handed back to the church, many of these committed Christians regard them as "manna for the millenium." "At all events," one of them said, "they must first be restored or rebuilt. This will take months and months. And who can say that they will not be closed again after the millenium?"

A Reform Bogged Down [subhead]

As a result of the Russian Orthodox heirarchy's alignment with the government, there is a growing gap between the independent Christians and Moscow's Patriarchate. So much so, that a group of nine of them decided last month to hold their own commemoration of the millenium to counter "the official pomp which will disguise the imprisonment" of the church. "Aside from drinking cognac and eating caviar, they cannot do anything," Bishop Aleksandr Ogorodnikov said. Bishop Feodosy of Astrakhan, a member of the Episcopate—who is not regarded as the most docile bishop—took the unprecedented initiative of writing to Mikhail Gorbachev last October to demand the restoration to the church of the Kiyevo-Pecherskaya monastery, regarded as the cradle of Christianity in Kiev. Because he received no reply, he decided to publish that letter a few months later.

Many other signs show that the Soviet Government's attitude to religion has not really changed, particularly outside Moscow. The authorities are still making life difficult for priests and Catholics in Lithuania, and the Ukrainian Uniates—Catholics of the Byzantine rite, forced to join the Orthodox Church in 1946—are still banned because of "collaboration with the Nazis." Muslim religious practices are constantly condemned in the Central Asian press. In an editorial on 27 January, PRAVDA condemned those who "are trying to show that the church has traditionally opposed evil and who are trying to revive religious morality." "This state of mind," it added, "is being revived, particularly on the eve of the millenium of Christianity in Russia. This event must be explained to the people according to Marxist-Leninist scientific positions."

A few days later, on 2 February, the CPSU organ returned ot the attack: "The Church is stepping up its propaganda and religious activity, and at the same time is exploiting society's spiritual poverty and a degree of indifference to atheist work." "This," PRAVDA wrote, "is particularly true in this period of preparations for the millenium. It is, therefore, vital to step up atheist work in all sections of the population, especially among young people." Believers have changed, the author of this article continued in substance; atheist propaganda must therefore adapt to their new behavior and acquire greater sophistication.

In these conditions, it is easier to understand why the famous reform of the legislation on religions announced last year by the government is in fact getting bogged down. What does this reform comprise? Mr Kharchev raised his eyes to heaven: "You know, when the bread is in the oven, you do not know how it will turn out."

[Kauffmann] Perhaps you could tell us when it will come out?

[Kharchev] I cannot tell you that either. What I can say is that a real struggle is taking place on all these questions. It is a very difficult struggle, more difficult than I originally thought. [Kharchev ends]

The chairman of the Council of Religious Affairs cannot therefore merely explain the abstract principles of "democratization" on which his draft reform is based or even state that "anything not forbidden by the law is allowed."

To give an example, teaching the catechism outside the family is still impossible because the law prohibits religious instruction in groups. It is true, he admitted, at present the change has no legal basis. "But we are working on it. Let us say that we are taking the first steps, it is a complicated process." Mr Gorbachev will not contradict that.

Deaths at Metallurgical Combine Reported

PM241005 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 February 1988 Second Edition carries on page six under the rubric "Emergency Situation" and the heading "They Did Not Return Home From the Shop" a 1,800-word report by correspondent G. Sazonov from Vologda Oblast.

Sazonov reports that "On the last Sunday in January an accident occurred at the Cherepovets metallurgical combine electric steel smelting shop. It happened in the evening. The shop chief was on a business trip, his deputy was on vacation, and the acting deputy was absent at his son's wedding. At the same time, people were dying one after the other in the stuffy shop basement...."

Sazonov goes on to cite the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy and USSR State Committee for Supervision of Safe Working Practices in Industry and Mine Supervision: "On 30 January during the 1500-2300 hours shift, on instructions from senior foreman N.N. Kuptsov, V.A. Ryumin, operator of a continuous steel smelting unit, and repair mechanic V.V. Tsypin set about descaling a pipe next to the gas torch cutting machine. They did not use a cable to clean it. They attached a hose to a pipeline containing argon. Having completed the cleaning, they did not remove the hose from the pipe and did not cover up the valve again. The argon began to enter the ventilation basement containing electrical equipment...." Five men died as a result, Sazonov reports. Kuptsov and Ryumin claimed that they thought the unmarked pipeline contained compressed air and not argon, Sazonov continues, but asserts that "it may be assumed with a certain measure of certainty that these two used the argon deliberately as a high-pressure gas." Leaving aside the question of culpability, Sazonov devotes the remainder of the report to a discussion of the adequacy of safety measures in the use of argon, which had already caused several deaths in the metallurgical industry before the Cherepovets incident: "Let's think about this together. What further arguments do the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy and its relevant services need to understand that argon is dangerous to life? How many more deaths do they need?" Although the Cherepovets combine had instituted additional safety instructions at the end of last year, "they had not had time to train people properly." Moreover, "a worker's responsibility for violating safety procedure has not been defined at legislative level." Sazonov's conclusion is that "the reasons for what happened in Cherepovets must be studied carefully. The attitude toward argon must be changed. Slovenliness in dealing with it must be ruled out at any level."

Work Stoppage by Omsk Delivery Drivers Reported

PM251405 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 24 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by journalist A. Kastravets: "Marked Down as...Mutineers"]

[Text] Omsk—Monday is a difficult day, as people say. A. Gashkov, director of the oblast Potrebsoyuz truck depot, saw this for himself as he arrived at work in the morning. On Monday 21 December the drivers of his enterprise refused to start work. Instead of setting out on the road, more than 150 people assembled in the recreation room to express their lack of confidence in their leader. "It's either him or us" was how they put it.

Representatives of Omsk city's Kirovskiy party raykom and the oblast Potrebsoyuz arrived at the scene of the emergency—for that is how the nonsanctioned meeting was regarded. Gashkov himself, who regarded what was happening as hooliganism and a case of taking the law into one's own hands [samoupravstvo], refused to attend the meeting and sat it out in his office while the meeting seethed in the recreation room. He had not a moment's doubt that the "strike would end badly for the mutineers" and thought, as indeed he still does, that the events of that Monday were absurd and perhaps even an act of provocation.

The workers, however, saw it differently. They had come not to an unruly assembly but to a meeting of the labor collective. And for that reason demanded its decision be treated with respect.

What happened, then, how did the confrontation between the leader and the collective arise and how did it become exacerbated? That was the first question I asked when I met with A. Gashkov after the events at the office of V. Mishina, first secretary of Kirovskiy party raykom.

"It became difficult to work with people," A. Gashkov explained. "The conflict arose purely as a result of the indiscipline and selfish demands of the drivers. Some 300 tonnes of cement needed on sites were stockpiled in the warehouse. But drivers refused to go out as there were no return loads for them. I naturally exercised my authority and punished the culprits. You must understand that the chief of a truck depot is responsible for the loads. Whereas drivers, if you let them have their way, will go only where it suits them."

"He has many good points," V. Mishina, first secretary of the party raykom, said, "he is enterprising and has organizational abilities. But he is extremely self-sufficient and proud, and therefore fails to notice people."

"Why weren't matters rectified earlier?"

"A. Gashkov was 60 in October. But he had to wait for retirement until January while they were authorizing his personal pension...."

The party raykom saw in these events nothing but a case of taking the law into one's own hands and anarchy. The raykom's senior officials differed little from A. Gashkov in this—they had, like him, no wish to understand people's interests or hear their opinions. But the drivers were unanimous in their assessment of Gashkov. According to driver V. Sinegurbov: "He thinks he's a real cut above everyone. We were second-class people to him and he had no wish to listen to us."

"We are now being cast in the worst possible light and are being called mutineers and money-grabbers," said driver A. Reshetnyak. "But we, like all normal workers, are concerned both for the plan and our wages. It is obvious, after all, that there is no benefit either to the enterprise or the driver in coming back with an empty truck. And it is untrue to claim that this was the first time we had said anything. As early as last March, when A. Gashkov was reporting back to the party meeting on fulfillment of the statutory requirements, discussion turned to his willfulness. There was even a proposal to circulate a questionnaire among the workers to reveal our attitude to the boss. But it did not come to anything: People made a bit of a fuss and dispersed. People were then waiting for Gashkov to retire. But you'll agree that, as the saying goes, seven people don't wait on one. And here it was a whole collective waiting! And so we took a decision: We would meet and give our opinion. Surely such a right exists?"

Such a right does exist. And his workers, as we can see, exercised it. The raykom's search for "the inciters of the mutiny" is futile. What one had was a labor collective meeting, not a mutiny. After all both the party bureau secretary and the trade union committee chairman sided with the collective on that "difficult Monday." Moreover, the party organization secretary was elected chairman of the meeting. The raykom saw this as sedition. I think it would have been more difficult if demagogues rather than the collective's acknowledged leaders had held the initiative during the conflict. The party secretary did not retire from the conflict, he saw that people were in an extremely excited state and appreciated that it was essential that they had their say.

The meeting spoke about the leader's rudeness and arrogance, about how working conditions were not improving, and about the fact that promises given 2 years earlier—to construct a warehouse and expand the technical servicing area—had not been carried out. The meeting's decision was unequivocal: "To express a lack of confidence in the truck depot chief."

Gashkov left. Not of his own will or in the way that he intended—he left without honors or words of gratitude.

But the "mutiny" at the truck plant has not been forgotten. "This episode could serve as a bad example for other labor collectives," I heard at the Kirovskiy party raykom. What is it, then, that so frightened the raykom? Is it not the very right of a collective to assess a leader's activity?

We are now campaigning for labor collectives' independence and initiative. But they cannot be made real if people are denied the opportunity to give their assessment of what happens, to express their opinion, or to demand equal responsibility.

"During this conflict, which was difficult for everyone," P. Malyshev, secretary of the truck plant party bureau, said, "people sensed the collective's strength, they believed that total licence was punishable. But the main thing is that they demonstrated that there can be no normal life or good work done without mutual understanding between the collective and its leader and that no pressure would replace prestige and mutual respect."

Changes in Labor Legislation Provisions Noted

PM211943 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Article by Doctor of Juridical Sciences Professor R.Z. Livshits, leading scientific associate of the USSR Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute: "New Labor Laws. Legal Levers of Economic Reform"—first four paragraphs are IZVESTIYA introduction; boldface passages as published]

[Text] A decree "On the Introduction of Amendments and Additions to USSR Labor Legislation Stemming From the Restructuring of Economic Management" was adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium 4 February 1988. Two new chapters have been added to the Fundamentals of Labor Legislation—"the Labor Collective" and "Ensuring Employment for Released Workers"; in addition, substantial amendments and additions have been made to many articles in the Fundamentals.

The new labor laws are an important stage in the creation of a legal basis fully conforming with the demands of the current economic transformations in our country and the new methods of economic management, harmoniously combining the real interests of society, the enterprise, and individual workers.

What are the most characteristic features of the amendments made to labor legislation?

Doctor of Juridical Sciences Professor R.Z. Livshits, leading scientific associate of the USSR Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, comments.

The first point that must be emphasized is that the new norms are aimed against wage leveling in labor remuneration. For many years both the Fundamentals and the Labor Law Code contained an immutable rule according to which labor contracts could not include conditions either diminishing or enhancing the level of labor rights enshrined in the Law. This would seem fair. But it also provided a legal basis for "leveling," because the extent of benefits and advantages enjoyed by front-ranking collectives and front-ranking workers could not exceed the established maximum. Now this rule has been repealed. The Law reads: "The administration of an enterprise, institution, or organization, jointly with the labor collective council and the trade union committee, is authorized to institute and fund from its own resources labor, social, and daily life benefits for workers from the collective or for separate categories of workers or employees over and above those provided by legislation" (Article 5 of the Fundamentals). What are these benefits? Any sort of benefits. The only point is that they must be funded from own resources, in other words from the results of the collective's labor. They could take the form of additional material incentives, monetary grants, free food, and even additional leave for the best workers. Anything that is not prohibited is allowed.

Henceforth the fundamental principle of labor remuneration is: Every worker's wage is determined only by the end results of work and the worker's personal contribution, and therefore there are no restrictions on the maximum amount (Article 38 of the Fundamentals).

The general idea of the new provisions can be formulated as follows: Good workers and front-ranking collectives can and must be better off, poor workers and lagging collectives can and must be worse off. This, I believe, is a manifestation of genuine social justice.

The Law's new provisions legally enshrine the collective nature of labor. Legal regulations were hitherto oriented toward individual labor, in other words it covered only labor relations between the administration and individual workers; there was no room for the collective.

The Law on the Enterprise took the first step toward the real legal regulation of collective labor by introducing self-management of labor collectives, labor collective councils, and the electability of economic leaders. Developing the ideas of the Law on the Enterprise, the new chapter of the Fundamentals on "The Labor Collective" expands the sphere of the collective's powers and states that decisions by the labor collective are now mandatory not only for members of the collective and the administration, but also for higher-ranking state and economic organs.

But special attention must be paid to the following: It has been established that any decisions by labor collectives, including decisions on the release of economic leaders and team members from work, are to be executed subject to a mandatory condition—conformity with legislation. This answers an acute practical question: Can the collective demand a worker's dismissal? Of course it can. But only for reasons provided for by the Law. A majority wish by itself is not grounds for dismissal. This means that the collective is not always right—it is right when the Law is on its side.

Another new element is the reciprocal material liability of administrations and teams. Should a team fail to fulfill production indicators through the fault of the administration (as a result of, say, enforced idleness), the team remains fully entitled to the wages fund calculated according to wage rate tables. But should this happen through the team's fault, payment is made only in respect of work actually performed; the team is not credited with incentive payments. Any loss incurred by the enterprise through the manufacture of substandard output through the team's fault is recouped from its collective earnings up to the limit of the average monthly earnings. But when collective earnings are distributed among team members, the blame attaching to specific workers is also taken into account.

There is no doubt that the development of collective contracts will raise new questions which will require juridical answers. This is a matter for the near future. But the legal foundation has been laid: It also includes the mandatory requirement that collectives' decisions should not diverge from legislation.

Unfortunately, the freedom of action of those involved in labor relations—administrations and workers—was severely limited in most matters involving the application of labor. Too many situations in production were regulated with the help of long lists: This, this, and this is allowed, and all the rest is not. Practice showed that rigid regulation led not so much to stability in labor relations (even though the Law pursued this precise goal) as to their ossification. Life persistently demanded emancipation. But this is a far from simple matter: The expansion of freedom could under no circumstances be reduced to a blessing for arbitrary actions by administrations to the detriment of workers' rights. This is why we are now talking not simply about the abolition of all sorts of prohibitions but also about replacing them by a different and more elastic regulating mechanism in which would there would be more points of contact in combining the vital interests of production and of workers.

This is perhaps most graphically expressed in the new legal regulation governing transfer to other permanent work at the same enterprise (Article 13 of the Fundamentals). While previously it was impossible to transfer a worker (for example, a driver from one type of vehicle to another, a machine tool operator to another shop, or an engineer to another department) without his consent, now the new Law allows such transfers; only one condition has to be met: The worker must remain at the level of specialization, skill, or duty grading which was established when the labor contract was concluded. Furthermore, a transferred worker now remains entitled to his former earnings for a period of 2 months; any future changes in substantial conditions of labor (work hours, benefits, and others) must be notified to the worker 2 months in advance. In other words, everything has been done to ensure that working people have a choice about whether to continue working in the new conditions or to change jobs.

The expansion of the freedom of action of those involved in labor relations has affected other issues. For example, a 5-day or 6-day working week is introduced by the administration jointly with the trade union committee, taking into account the labor collective's opinion and in coordination with the local soviet. But permission from higher-ranking economic and trade union organs is not required, as it was in the past. The former Law provided that compensatory time was given for work on days off, while work on holidays was paid at double rate. And workers were not allowed to add any days off they might have earned to their leave entitlement. The purport of the new law is that compensation for work on days off can take any form—subject to agreement between administration and worker: Either a higher rate of pay or a day off in lieu, including the provision that this day off can be added to leave entitlement.

There is no need to explain that the restructuring of economic management demands the rational use of labor resources. This will result in the release of surplus cadres. Primarily as a result of cutbacks in surplus management; in some cases this release will also affect production (let us recall the Belorussian Railroad's experience). At the same time, **guaranteed** full **employment** of the ablebodied population has been and remains the **basis** of state strategy. Workers are given **personal** notice at least 2 months **in advance** of any forthcoming release from work. There are detailed regulations governing the provision of alternative work or training in a new vocation (specialized field). Anyone released from work **remains entitled** to his **average** earnings (taking severance pay into account) while between jobs, this period being limited to 2-3 months; in benefit terms he is considered as having been in **continuous** employment, and other compensations are also available.

In this context it must be mentioned that the Law makes provision for **a new ground for dismissal** on the administration's initiative—when a workers reaches **pensionable age** and is entitled to **full** old-age pension. Of course, the application of this norm demands not only consideration of the labor collective's interests but also a particularly delicate attitude toward labor veterans. The dismissal of pensioners is **not an obligation** but only a **power** of the administration and must be agreed with the trade union committee. If a pensioner continues to work conscientiously, produces high labor results, and enjoys deserved prestige in the collective, labor relations with him are extended. Incidentally, the Law also makes provision for an **interim** solution—the conclusion of a **limited-duration** labor contract with the pensioner running for not more than 2 years (subject to subsequent renegotiation).

The legal regulation of labor could not remain unchanged in the conditions of radical economic reform and democratization of the whole of social life, and it has changed indeed. But this is only the first step. It is now very important to ensure that the new laws become part of daily life and are accepted and implemented as such. There is no need to wait for any additional explanations. The Law's provisions are specific, and they must he immediately put into operation! As for the departmental explanations which were regularly used to apply the brakes on even the most decisive actions, the new Law simply does not need them. And I would like to hope that they will not appear.

I repeat that the new Law is the first major step in the improvement of labor legislation. New steps will have to be taken. There is an immediate need to elaborate new legislation on leave entitlement which would extend minimum leave entitlement and consistently interlink labor results and duration of leave. Leave now accumulates essentially according to length of service or job grading—labor results are not taken into account. This situation is obviously incorrect in present-day conditions.

To continue. It is necessary to at long last resolve the pressing question of expanding judicial protection of labor rights. The No 1 and No 2 Job Lists of sad fame (about which IZVESTIYA has written on several occasions), the impossibility of disputing at trade union or court level any disciplinary action or dismissal, action taken under statutes relating to discipline (there are dozens of such statutes and the number is still growing)—these are signs of the past. These are anachronisms which are in blatant contradiction with the course of democratization. Incidentally, nobody publicly advocates their preservation—they are maintained by ministries and departments silently but evidently quite firmly. This silent resistance must be overcome. When the notorious lists are abolished, this will represent yet another decisive and overdue step to strengthen legality in the sphere of labor relations.

Letters Cite Problems Caused by Layoffs

PM221021 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 88 Morning Edition p 3

[Article by Yuriy Orlik, deputy editor of IZVESTIYA's letters department, under the "Mailbag" rubric: "Made Redundant"]

[Text] I admit that it is a long time since I read such an alarming assortment of mail. On the whole it is understandable: When you are fired... And this is only the first wave of letters to do with the staff reduction which has begun across the whole country.

"I am a storewoman at the meter hire section in the instrument department at the 'Mashpribor' plant," L. Fadeyeva from Yaroslavl writes. "My salary is R85 plus 30 percent bonus. I am 50 years old and I have been working for 35 years, if you include trade school. In those days people went straight to the factory floor. My health has gone... So I wanted to work in this storehouse until I retired. But they won't let me... My son and I live such modest lives and here we are without job or money."

"Is the abstract concept of 'unemployment' becoming an everyday occurrence here?" asks A. Salkhodzhayev from Turkestan City in the Kazakh SSR's Chimkent Oblast. Of course, you may immediately dispute the view expressed by this letter writer, who says that the release of workers from enterprises, organizations, and institutions, without which there can be no transfer to the intensive economy or radical reform of management, is being accompanied (or in any event should be accompanied) by their employment in other spheres of the national economy, involvement in other forms of activity, and so on. It is no coincidence that the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and AUCCTU resolution on ensuring the effective employment of the population speaks of boosting the social guarantees for working people. Nevertheless, we shall not take A. Salkhodzhayev literally. Especially since his conclusions are based on his own experience. At the beginning of the cold season A. Salkhodzhayev did not go on a "familiarization course" for the job of boiler house stoker. "They tell me that there is no work in industry—go into the consumer services sphere, become a barber, a cook, or a waiter. Oh, these highly paid advisers... Me, a 'born' lathe operator become a hairdresser? Me, a native of southern Kazakhstan abandon everything and go off to the sands of the Caspian because there is a manpower shortage there?... The costs of the economic innovations (in this case the transfer to economic accountability [khozraschet] and self-financing) cannot be ignored. And they are first and foremost real people and real social problems."

Using the two letters I have quoted as an introduction to the problem and to the mood of the correspondence generated by the wave of redundancies, let us try to investigate the cause of the alarm. Especially since according to specialists' estimates we have to cut around 3 million jobs in the current 5-year plan alone and by the year 2000 the number of workers released will reach 16 million. Food for thought there.

The first view to emerge from reading these letters is that the majority of those who have written to the editorial office, including even those who have been made redundant, recognize the need to eliminate the overmanning. "The redundancy program and the struggle against bureaucratic chaos are absolutely essential," notes A. Blagoveshchenskiy from Oktyabrskiy city in the Bashkir ASSR. "After all, we have now grown to 18 million administrative units." "Unless we achieve a reduction in administrative staff in the near future it cannot be ruled out that we will soon reach the point at which there will one chief for every Indian in our country"—such is the view of G. Andreyev from Kurgan.

The workers at the Bessarabskaya station describe a very typical episode in their letter to the editorial office. At the end of last December a large quantity of dry freight—rubble and sand—accumulated on one route. There were just three people working to clear the load by hand—using pick axes, shovels, and crow bars. "But what a gathering of leaders there was... The station chief and two of his deputies, the head of the freight yard, a senior acceptance clerk, an acceptance clerk, the chief of long-distance freight work, his deputy, the chief engineer, a section chief, his foreman, two workers from the station party committee, and the rayispolkom chairman. Fourteen chiefs to three Indians. How can we go on working like this?" A reasonable question.

The point should also be made that the fervent unanimity with which the letter writers greet the reduction (or the idea of reducing) the administrative and managerial apparatus gives way to restraint and even doubt when it comes to releasing people directly employed in production or the services sphere. Yet unless that is done the labor intensiveness level cannot be raised and the radical economic reform cannot be implemented. Here is an interesting observation from S. Kolbe from the GDR, who has experienced our procedures: "I was once in a hospital in Riga. There was a shortage of nurses and those who were there drank vodka and wouldn't do anything without payment. There was thick dust in the wards. The main reason in my view is that you have five people doing work that could be done by three who could earn a good living and take a pride in good work."

After calling the reduction of the artificially inflated manpower levels a necessary measure and stating that "we need workers who produce material assets, not clerks," V. Ilyushchenko, a worker from Krivoy Rog, suddenly addresses the fact that he himself may be redundant and be sacked under conditions of economic accountability and self-financing in enterprises. "It may be," he remarks, "that your beloved profession—the whole point of your working life—the profession to which you aspired and for which you trained in your educational institution, and all your plans and hopes will for a certain period be of no interest to anyone nor will anyone make a fuss about you." "Yet once we were told," he continues, "that when the main heavy work was done by machinery it was the working day that would be reduced not the staff numbers. Now for some reason everyone is keeping quiet about that. Did Lenin's ideas and socialism really not envisage that?" This desire to find an answer to the alarming question of today by turning to Lenin is indicative. The criticism of those who remain silent—the social scientists above all who avoid the "political-economic dramas of modern life" (says L. Zvezdich from Nakhodka)—is also fair.

It must also be said that some letters reveal parasitical attitudes. When a sense of grievance connected with the need to change jobs (in the interests of the cause!) overshadows all else. The view of the state and the enterprise almost as charitable institutions: Do it or else [vyn da polozh]. The tendency to work below full strength also takes its toll, therefore the demand to work to full capacity (also required by the staff reduction) is sometimes perceived as an infringement of rights

The release and transfer of many thousands of workers now in progress is an extremely complex and painful business. "You have to cut to the quick," V. Medkov from Vladimir says, hitting the nail on the head. Conflicts, discontent, and tears are inevitable here. The point is to keep the losses to the minimum. Unfortunately the experience of the first dismissals suggests the reverse. "It couldn't be any other way," remarks L. Vereskov from Naryan-Mara. "Particularly with our ability to go from one extreme to the other and to put the cart before the horse." In fact, the resolution in question obliges enterprise administrations to work with employment organs from the outset in concerning themselves with the problem of where those cadres scheduled for redundancy are going to work before they sign the dismissal notice. But what happens in practice? Dismissal notices are showered on people like confetti. The temptation to try to rectify the enterprise's economy with one stroke of the pen is too great.

"I do not know how it is elsewhere but our administration without further ado put about 10 percent of the workers out on the street and increased the pay of the rest at their expense," complains O. Orlik from "Irkutskgeofizika." I. Kazachuk, a deputy from Borispol City Soviet (Kiev Oblast), writes about how many enterprises are in a hurry to get rid of "surplus workers" with no thought for their future.

Readers warn that the need to cut staff may be used and is being used to settle scores with people. "If you don't mind your tongue or don't get on well with the management, watch out," remarks A. Sorokin from Kaliningrad, Moscow Oblast. Zh. Kartzhanov, a rayon soviet reserve deputy and a fitter with 10 years' experience who works on the "Kenes" Sovkhoz in the Karakalpak ASSR's Chimbayskiy Rayon, writes that he "always spoke openly about shortcomings at meetings and argued with the management." Consequently he failed the certification procedure and was sacked.

I cannot accept the view expressed by V. Yegorov, a worker at a Moscow scientific research institute. "It must be remembered that the people being sacked are Soviet citizens. They are the children of their time, its product. And if their labor has now ceased to be necessary that is not their fault but their misfortune. They need help."

The potential exists for that. Our society has vast reserves to ensure that everyone is given work. Take the second and third shifts where the manpower shortage runs into many thousands of people, or the employment of those scheduled for redundancy in the production of consumer goods, the modernization of enterprises, or the construction of social, cultural, and consumer facilities by the own-resources method. That means that people will remain at their plants and factories. The lifting of all the restrictions on individual and collective work can also be very beneficial in this respect.

We face a difficult step. But we have to take it. This is demanded by the interests of the economy, the interests of us all.

MVD Official Details Drug Problems

Technical Equipment Problems

PM191513 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 88 Second Edition p 6

[Article by A. Grigoryev article under the rubric "In the USSR MVD": "We Need Action!"]

[Text] As it has turned out, drug addiction has an uncommon ability to adapt to seemingly hopeless circumstances. The criminal investigation department seemed to have dealt the problem the first real blow by "sealing off" entire poppy- and hemp-growing regions from the underground markets, and drug addiction adapted like lightning: "Plant-based preparations" have been replaced by drugs stolen from Ministry of Health subdepartments. Some 500 medical workers have recently been implicated in this kind of crime.

But is the militia using all its reserves to the full? What is stopping it from sealing off all drugs distribution channels? This was the subject of a briefing given yesterday by the USSR MVD.

"Unfortunately," Militia Lieutenant General V. Pankin, chief of the Criminal Investigation Main Administration, self-critically assessed the situation, "we have still not been able to develop an effective, flexible system to combat drug addiction. The figures seem to be impressive. We have confiscated 42 tonnes of raw material and narcotic substances. The number of drug-related crimes has fallen by 25 percent. But we do not intend to flatter ourselves. In some regions, for example, up to 60 percent of apartment break-ins are committed by drug addicts...."

Yes, as we have been able to see for ourselves, drug addiction is not such a "young" problem. It would be more true to describe it as a chronic illness which cannot be cured at a stroke. Sometimes even the most reliable methods of investigative work fail. There are problems with technical equipment. The criminal investigation department basically has no equipment for on-the-spot analysis. The law enforcement mechanism is sometimes ineffectual with regard to pinpointing and unmasking drug dealers and traffickers and the people responsible for organizing and maintaining drug dens operating in Armenia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Volgograd, Kemerovo, Chelyabinsk, and Saratov Oblasts.

There can be no doubt: It is now quite clear that the main healing role must be played by the USSR Ministry of Health. But establishing and sealing off criminal channels and neutralizing the source of the evil is the principal task of internal affairs organs. Positive steps have now been taken in this direction. For example, the fact that 96 percent of all drug stores are part of a warning system has sharply reduced the number of thefts. The large-scale "Mak" ["Poppy"] operation conducted on the militia's initiative has made it possible to strike right at the heart of drug manufacturers. But why are we so slow to act in the "trade outlets"—in our streets, backyards, and apartments?

And who, if not the criminal investigation department, can be expected to break the intricate network of operators filling their wallets at the expense of other people's physical and moral health?

Discusses 'Narco-Mafia'

LD201307 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2130 GMT 19 Feb 88

[From the "View" program]

[Text] We'll acquaint you now with this videocassette which was given to us by the Criminal Investigation Main Administration of the USSR Ministry of Internal

Affairs. As you look at the shots taken by Ministry of Internal Affairs staff during the "Poppy-87" operation, carried out in our southern republics, I'll acquaint you with information from a briefing, a meeting with journalists at the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. [Video shows monitor with scenes of poppy fields being destroyed]

During the "Poppy-87" operation, approximately 4,000 illegal opium poppy and hemp fields were found and more than 140,000 hectares of thickets growing wild were destroyed. It was said at the briefing that there are more shortcomings and unsolved problems than problems solved in organizing the fight against drug addiction. Nevertheless, there are a fair number of solved problems, too. In 1987 some 77 percent of drug addicts had already undergone voluntary treatment, and 15,000 had stopped using drugs.

Our correspondent reports from the briefing at the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs:

[Correspondent Sergey Lomakhin] The term Narco-Mafia has appeared frequently in the press in recent years. Does this exist in our country?

[V.K. Pankin, chief of the Criminal Investigation Main Administration of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, identified by caption] No matter what we call it, the Narco-Mafia or an organized crime group among drug addicts, it does, it must be admitted, exist, and it exists here. I don't think the militia, as it were, sees this as a fabricated issue. It does exist. A great deal is needed, you know, for there to be a mafia. You need a lot of markers, understand. And if in the Soviet Union two or three, let's say, of the markers that are inherent in capitalism are missing, we can't, as it were, say it's a capitalist mafia, a classic mafia like they have in the West. That we can't say. We don't have that. But coherent professional group crime does exist and has for a long time.

[Lomakhin] Our program often receives letters from former and active drug addicts and these often...[Lomakhin changes thought] Well, no doubt they have particular difficulties with the problem of finding work. It is well known that many of them have a criminal record, and it's very hard to get work. How is the ministry dealing with this problem and helping with it?

[Pankin] The (?coordination) commission examined the issue of organizing treatment and educative work in the Gorkiy Treatment and Education Complex on Drug Addiction. Treatment there is being undergone by 400 addicts. This is compulsory treatment, and the head of this treatment center gave a very interesting account of the forms and methods of work. They believe that the most effective, the most effective, is all the same, the humane, persuasive approach to this category of person on the harm of this phenomenon and help. This is what they do regarding finding employment. This head—and I believe he made the right decision—does not write in the employment record book. Parents ask—there's no need to write it for a young boy. He'll come and find work, and then you can write it some time. That's the road we've taken. That head has many grateful letters from those who rejected drugs through such profound and humane understanding of people's illness. That's an example. I don't mean it's the system. It's an example, but one of the kind we should arm ourselves with, this type of treatment is (?what's needed.)

Leaders of Antiques Smuggling Ring Imprisoned

PM191915 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 88 Second Edition p 6

[Report by TASS correspondent V. Ponomarev specially for PRAVDA under the rubric "Court Report": "Secret of the 'Firm'"]

[Text] A criminal group of smugglers, foreign-currency dealers, and black marketeers led by Yuliy Fand and Eduard Rapoport has been smashed. It had been operating in Moscow for the last 5 years. In cahoots with certain former Soviet citizens who had already emigrated, the underground "cooperative" sold articles of national historic and cultural value abroad. Foreign citizens, who, in accordance with their status, had privileged customs clearance, were used as couriers in cross-border trips. Smuggling operations were organized for a number of years involving goods and valuables worth a total of R4.2 million.

The group's criminal activities have been stopped. More than 200 pictures, prerevolutionary coins in denominations of R5, R10, and R15, jewelry, antiques, diamonds, and other valuables in the sum of R2.5 million have been saved from further embezzlement.

Yuliy Fand and Eduard Rapoport, the organizers of the criminal business, and their accomplices Boris Khavilov, Marat Oster, Yevgeniy Popov, Valentin Andronnikov, and Beninese citizen Fassin Emmanuel Tatin [name as transliterated] appeared before the bench.

The trial lasted 3 months at the Moscow City Court. The criminals who encroached on public property were sentenced to different terms of imprisonment and their ill-gotten gains were confiscated.

Black Sea Shipping Response to Critics Scored

PM191616 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 88 Second Edition p 8

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent V. Vasilets under the rubric "From the Latest Mail": "For the Honor of the Regiment?"]

[Text] Odessa—There is a constant stream of letters to the editorial office and to the PRAVDA correspondent's office in connection with A. Sakhnin's article "The Thrill of Power" (13 September 1987), the response to it from Odessa party obkom (21 December 1987), and the author's second article (25 January 1988). The party committee of the Black Sea Shipping Line, which was criticized in the newspaper, also responded. This is how it responded: In two issues of its house newspaper MORYAK it published a lengthy item trying, in effect, to refute the PRAVDA publications.

Well, wanting to express your view would not in itself arouse any objections, were it not for the methods by which it was done. The methods are these—lack of objectivity and a gross distortion of the facts. That is why the oblast newspaper ZNAMYA KOMMUNIZMA, VECHERNYAYA ODESSA, and the oblast radio deemed it necessary to come out against the MORYAK publication. They demonstrated in a well-argued way the distortion of the facts and the full groundlessness of the party committee's position.

Yu. Turchaninov, author of the ZNAMYA KOMMUNIZMA article, describing the party committee's comments on Captain V. Nikitin, notes: "Never in my life... have I read worse filth." "I have known V. Nikitin for many years," Captain A. Shevtsov tells the VECHERNYAYA ODESSA editorial office, "and everything that MORYAK writes about Vadim Nikolayevich is filthy, vile, and unworthy of the seamen of the Russian Fleet."

These people can hardly be condemned for their sharp expressions. They were given grounds for it by the item published by the Black Sea Shipping Line Party Committee, which is free from modesty, not to mention self-criticism. Since party committee secretary N. Veretelnik had decided to print the item in "his" newspaper, he should at least have been ashamed to publicize his splendid life story and how noble, honest, and modest he is.

B. Derevyanko, editor of VECHERNYAYA ODESSA, observes, however: "N.M. Veretelnik is by no means the main or crucial figure in the system. His words only sound like thunder in the mountains if the heights above are favorably inclined... My fellow journalists on the oblast radio and the newspaper ZNAMYA KOMMUNIZMA criticized the party committee's position and assessed it as an attempt to defend the honor of the regiment."

Sharing this view and backing up his opinion with hard facts, the author concludes that the party committee is not even fighting for the honor of the regiment. "It is well known," he notes, "that the regiment's uniform is well and truly frayed. What the party committee is fighting for, if you think about it and do not shrink from alarming conclusions, is a return to the times when the Black Sea Shipping Line was one of those zones that were closed to criticism. So that no 'outsider' dare 'poke his nose' into its affairs. So that the prevailing spirit is one of concealment, of a departmental and parochial view of what is true and what is false, which court is right and which is not worth a dime, who must be listened to, who must be kowtowed to, whose wrath must be feared."

In conclusion the author says: "...It is hard to grasp the scale of the present campaign to refute the PRAVDA articles, in the course of which everything possible is being brought into play—without critical analysis, without self-criticism, without sincere concern for the state of affairs in an economic unit which is so important that not only the city, but the whole country wants to take pride in it."

We must agree with that. It remains only to add that while the party committee, as B. Derevyanko puts it, is "putting everything into the struggle against A. Sakhnin," in the shipping line one accident after another is occuring. As PRAVDA has already reported, an accident without precedent in world shipping occured in the Gulf of Mexico: A ship belonging to the Black Sea Shipping Line, equipped with modern navigational aids, collided in good visibility with an enormous, motionless drilling platform. Soon after, in the Odessa port, the diesel ship "Nikita Michenko" holed the side of a Panamanian ship loaded with corn. In February of this year two Black Sea Shipping Line ships collided in the port of Ilichevsk.

It seems that the lessons of the "Admiral Nakhimov" accident are forgotten, or, rather, were never really learned. So is it, perhaps, time for the Black Sea Shipping Line Party Committee, instead of publishing items in MORYAK that aim to create a sensation and are organized with the help of party obkom workers, finally to give a principled assessment of the many negative phenomena afflicting the shipping line, which the central and local press have written about repeatedly, and set about their job, as the times demand, by first of all improving the moral atmosphere in the collective?

Briefs

Collection of Speeches Published

Moscow February 19 TASS—The collection "Meeting of the Representatives of Parties and Movements Who Arrived To Attend the Activities To Mark the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution" was brought out by the Moscow Political Literature Publishers. The collection features the speeches by the representatives of parties and movements at the meeting held in Moscow on November 4-5 as well as the texts of speeches which were not delivered at it due limited time but were published in the newspaper PRAVDA along with the speeches made. [Text] [*Moscow TASS in English 2208 GMT 19 Feb 88 LD*]

Changes in Health Service

Moscow February 9 TASS—The Executive Committee of the Moscow Soviet has decided to introduce changes in planning of the work of public health institutions. It was noted at the committee's meeting that although there are 234,000 medical personnel in Moscow, including about 46,000 physicians, the results of their work could be better. Structural changes are also needed in the organisation of medical services. Uniform salaries of physicians do not encourage them to improve their skills and expand their knowledge. Starting with this year the rights of the management of public health institutions in dealing with the main economic and personnel matters will be expanded. It is intended to offer medical services at the city's medical establishments to foreign citizens for a fee. Combined with earnings of joint ventures with foreign firms this money will be spent on purchasing medical equipment. [Text] [*Moscow TASS in English 1956 GMT 9 Feb 88 LD*]

New Lithuanian Foreign Minister

Vitautas Zenkyavichyus, minister of foreign affairs of the Lithuanian SSR, has been relieved of his post by the presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet because of his retirement. Vladislovas Mikuchyauskas has been appointed minister of foreign affairs of the Lithuanian SSR. [Text] [*Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 4 Jan 88 LD*]

Economic

Party, Government Decision on Cadre Training

LD251443 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] As has already been reported, the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have adopted a decision on the restructuring of the system for raising the qualifications and fresh training of leading workers and specialists in the national economy.

The decision notes that restructuring and speeding up the country's social and economic development require of leading workers and specialists in the national economy a high level of competence, creative initiative, and up-to-date economic thinking; mastery of new methods of management; and skills in working under conditions of full financial autonomy and democratization of all spheres of public life.

In the course of the scientific and technological revolution and the fundamental restructuring of the running of the economy, the continuous training of the working people becomes one of the most important factors in insuring the efficient work of associations, enterprises, organizations, establishments, and every labor collective. At the same time, the state of this work in the existing network of educational establishments in the system for raising the qualifications and fresh training of leading workers and specialists does not satisfy in either scale or quality of training the increased demands of the national economy for an efficient renewal of workers' professional knowledge.

A fundamental restructuring of the system for raising the qualifications and fresh training of cadres in the national economy needs to be carried out. The decision lays down the task to transfer in the 12th 5-Year Plan period from periodic to continuous training of cadres; to implement concrete measures to create, on a new basis, a single state system for raising qualifications and fresh training of leading workers and specialists. The continual raising of qualifications has been recognized as the direct official duty of every leader and specialist. Growth of professional competence is proposed to be considered a most important criterion in the attestation of workers.

A concrete program has been adopted for strengthening the educational-material base of the system for raising the qualifications and fresh training of cadres up to the year 2000.

The decision will be published in the newspapers.

Aganbegyan on Proposed Changes, Interpretations

LD240920 Moscow TASS in English 0844 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—The staffs of Soviet ministries and agencies have been slashed on the average by a half and the Soviet state planning committee Gosplan has laid off 30 percent of its personnel in order to streamline management, Academician Abel Aganbegyan has said.

The number of full-time officials on the payroll of public organizations has been cut by 25 percent, he added.

Speaking in an interview with the newspaper MOSCOW NEWS, which was published today, he said nearly all management bodies in the Soviet Union have revamped their structures.

He said the law on state enterprises, which entered into force on January 1, 1988, is directed against the former bureaucratic system of management and those attempting to interpret the legal act in their own peculiar way, Aganbegyan said, will be dealt with by a government commission for administration.

The commission, he explained, is empowered to take effective decisions correcting deviations from the law.

Aganbegyan refuted rumors about possible increases in rent in the Soviet Union. "No decision has been taken on this score," he said, "and if there is some decision concerning pensions, rent, medical services, re-education and other matters, it will be first published in the press for a nationwide discussion."

Agangebyan denied also rumors to the effect that a government decree will be adopted on the mandatory retirement of working people upon reaching pension age.

"On the contrary," he said, "the draft new pension law being drafted on instructions from the CPSU Central Committee provides for encouraging pensioners to continue working. The draft will possibly be published for popular discussion as early as this year."

Commission Outlines Joint Enterprise Procedures

LD241127 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0731 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, 24 Feb (TASS)—In the past year several hundred foreign firms have come to the Soviet Union with proposals to set up joint enterprises. That is what journalists have been told at the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers.

So far 23 joint enterprises and 14 international associations and organizations with foreign partners have been registered in the country. Furthermore, 40 agreements have been signed stating an intention to set up such enterprises. They cover a very wide variety of areas: machine-tool building, machine-building for the food and pulp and paper industries, information technology, recycling, publishing, and tourism. There has been interest in this sort of cooperation from socialist as well as capitalist countries. They include India, the FRG, Finland, France, Italy, the United States, and Japan.

It was reported at the commission that the procedure for setting up joint enterprises has now been simplified to a significant degree. They have been granted tax concessions for their operations on the Soviet market. A joint enterprise can now decide which currency to use for calculations when marketing a product or purchasing goods and also the procedure for marketing its output on the Soviet market and for being supplied with goods from it. (Previously all operations on the Soviet market had to be carried out exclusively in rubles.)

Joint enterprises are exempted from paying tax on profits for 2 years from the time when they receive a declared profit. (Previously tax was payable from the time operations started.) In accordance with the wishes of foreign partners the Soviet side has also expressed readiness to conclude investment protection agreements with interested countries.

Environmental Protection in Northwest Viewed

LD220028 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2200 21 Feb 88

[Text] An ecological safety research center that has come into operation in Leningrad has undertaken supervision of the coordination of scientific and engineering projects in the sphere of environmental protection in the Northwest Region. Under the aegis of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the search for solutions to nature protection tasks is at present concentrated in more than 60 academic sectoral institutes, production associations, and higher education establishments. Among the most acute problems in the region is preserving the ecological conditions and its water system, Lake Ladoga, the River Neva, and the Gulf of Finland says (Skarlatu), chairman of the scientific council on environmental protection problems of the interdepartmental coordinating council of the Academy of Sciences in the town on the Neva, and a corresponding member of the academy.

In this connection, we shall have some of the large-scale measures directed at cleaning up the water. Thus, in recent years some of the largest purifying installations in Europe have come into operation on Belyy Island. The construction of the first stage of northern industrial filters has been completed and the construction of the southwest filters have been started. Enterprises with the most toxic waste products have been closed or changed production. Particular attention has been devoted to creating highly effective complexes for treating industrial and domestic discharges with the subsequent utilization of the by-products for the needs of the national economy. All these and other measures have made it possible to reduce greatly the discharges of unpurified water, the scientist notes.

Alongside this, the ecological state of the Neva and its estuary is being assessed by experts as generally unsatisfactory; and the reason for this remains the activities of industrial enterprises. There is no integrated technical ideology in the system for purifying industrial discharges and rendering them harmless. There is no scientifically elaborated concept for reasoning microscopic impurities at each of the stages in the technological cycle of production.

The restructuring of the economic interrelations between enterprises, the shortage of pure water, and the need for a zealous attitude toward it at every production facility have also required the setting up of a single center for coordinating the whole chain of nature protection measures on the basis of the priority achievements of equipment and technology.

Briefs

Optical Fiber Communications

Equipment developed by specialists from Leningrad can now help to receive a better television picture. In one of the Leningrade microrayons, optical fiber communication lines are now used, which are superior to the ordinary metal transmission lines. Until now this new equipment has not been implemented widely due to lack of coordination between departments such as the USSR Gosteleradio, the USSR Ministry of Communications, and the RSFSR Ministry of Consumer Services. Recently, the Leningrad Soviet executive committee created a design and assembly enterprise, however, which will be responsible for designing new optical fiber communication lines, for constructing, producing, and assembling equipment. [Summary] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Feb 88 LD*]

Agricultural

Media Report 20-24 Feb Agricultural Developments

LD250513 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on USSR agricultural developments carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 20-24 February. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

20 February

Farms in southern regions of Uzbekistan have started sowing spring crops. This year they will cover about 700,000 hectares. (1500)

Sowing of alfalfa and spring barley has begun in southern Uzbekistan. Across the republic as a whole, however, approximately 5,000 tractors and a similar number of plows still must be repaired. The state of affairs in Karakalpakiya and Khorezm is causing particular concern. (0304)

21 February

Sowing of fodder crops has begun earlier than usual in southern Tajikistan and the Gissarskiy Valley. The main crop is alfalfa, which will cover more than 110,000 hectares this season. (0304)

Scientists from the Uzbek Grain Scientific Research Institute have devised a cultivation system suited for the arid land of Central Asia. Tests in the steppeland of Dzhizak Oblast have produced grain yields almost double the republic average. The system is being applied in all Uzbekistan's grainfields. (0000)

In the Donbass, at least 8,000 hectares of land used in mining operations will be restored and given over to agriculture during the current 5-year plan period. (1200)

22 February

An all-union seminar on intensifying corn cultivation begins today in Moscow. Maize-Corn farmers currently face a major task—to increase grain production by 1.5 times by the end of the 5-year plan while using the same crop area. Corn is a high-energy fodder crop which, when included in compound feed enables high-efficiency livestock-breeding. Unfortunately, the yield from this crop remains low, and full use is not being made of its potentials. Due to violations of cultivation procedures, approximately one-third of all the grain area sowed produces no grain; it is used for silage. Together with practitioners, prominent Soviet scientists have been invited to participate in the seminar. (0500)

23 February

No fileworthy items monitored.

24 February

In southern Uzbekistan, fodder gathering has started. In Surkhan Darya Oblast the mowing of rape, perko, and rye has started. (1400)

Scientific

'Mir' Crew Begin Space Walk To Install Battery

LD261041 Moscow World Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Two Soviet cosmonauts, the crew of the orbital complex Mir, have begun a space walk to install a new solar battery section. After opening the hatch, Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov walked out of the station toward the solar battery. [passage omitted]

Using television and radio communication means, specialists at Mission Control helped the crew choose the optimal procedure for the operation, which will take several hours. [passage omitted]

Soviet-Afghan Meeting on Joint Space Flight

LD251524 Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul February 25 TASS—A conference of heads of ministries and organizations of the Republic of Afghanistan devoted to preparations for a joint spaceflight has been held in the Afghan capital. Its participants discussed questions connected with the scientific program of the flight, specifically, geological prospecting on Afghan territory. It was pointed out that the results of the flight would promote further socio-economic development of the young republic.

In its report about the conference, the BAKHTAR news agency emphasized that the joint flight would become a new step on the way of the consolidation of traditional friendship between the two countries.

Sagdayev Comments on Plans for Mars Mission

LD252304 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Dr Roald Sagdayev, the director of the Soviet space research institute, has said more than 90 percent of Soviet space projects are executed with international cooperation. He said in part that the satellites and space stations incorporate instruments and equipment made by other socialist countries involved in the Intercosmos program. Such instruments were installed on space probes that studied Venus and Halley's Comet, and they will also be on the probes taking off this summer to Mars and its satellite Phobos. Dr Sagdayev said a manned mission to Mars is being contemplated in the Soviet Union. In the view of the Soviet expert, the venture should be international.

Izrael Urges Arctic Exploration Cooperation

LD251904 Moscow TASS in English 1444 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—"The problems of relationship between man and nature affect everyone and the need is ripe to formulate a global strategy of the environmental protection and the rational utilization of resources to solve them successfully", Yuriy Izrael, chairman of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology of the USSR, told a press conference here today.

Developing international cooperation of northern countries in the Arctic region can be a tangible contribution to tackling all-human ecological problems, he noted. The potential of modern civilization makes it possible to render the Arctic habitable to the benefit of the economic and other interests of the world community.

In view of this, immense significance is attached to collaborative scientific exploration of the Arctic. The Soviet Union proposed holding in 1988 a conference of the states located near the Arctic Circle on coordinating research efforts in the Arctic. The USSR attaches special importance to cooperation in environmental protection. Such a cooperation could be based on a jointly developed and uniform comprehensive plan for the protection of the north's environment. North European states could set an example to others by getting agreement on the institution of a system to monitor the environment and radiation safety in the region. Certain experience of cooperation has been gained in this field by now.

In addition to the existing areas of cooperation it is important, in our view, to pool the efforts of the countries in the region on problems of the exchange of carbon dioxide between the atmosphere and the Arctic Ocean, the long-distance atmospheric transfer of pollutants to the Arctic, and others.

The climatic conditions and the processes taking place in the ocean-atmosphere system exert considerable influence on the state of the natural conditions in the Arctic, Yuriy Izrael went on. In this connection, cooperation of northern countries in the study of the Arctic Ocean's water and heat exchange with the the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the study on joint drifting stations of interaction between the boundary layers of the atmosphere and the ocean given the ice cover seems to be effective. Many other directions of cooperation, which are of mutual interest to the participating countries, are also possible.

If one is to speak about the organisational aspect, it is possible to pool the efforts of scientists on drifting polar stations, organise joint voyages of ships and perform sea experiments, conduct joint conferences and symposia.

"We believe that boosting further international contacts and collaborative efforts of northern countries in dealing with ecological and other problems of the Arctic will meet their national interests and help improve the general situation in this important region of the world", the Soviet scientist emphasized.

Research Vessel Approaches Antarctic Station

LD252044 Moscow TASS in English 1625 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Board of Academician Fedorov, a research vessel, February 22 TASS—TASS special correspondent Nikolay Konstantinov reports:

As the Soviet research vessel Academician Fedorov approached Cape Burks on Antarctica's Hobbs Coast, its anchor was bailed out 50 metres, a precaution Captain Mikhail Mikhailov had taken to come as close as possible to Russkaya research station through a maze of stranded icebergs.

A difficult ice situation and unfathomed sea depths have won Russkaya the reputation of one of the most hard-of-access stations in the inhabited part of Antarctica. Yet it is the only permanent weather-monitoring centre in the huge and poorly explored western part of the continent.

Studying the weather and climate there was thought so vitally important that Russkaya station was eventually opened in 1980, though only after a number of attempts had failed. The name, Russkaya, is a tribute to the Russian sailors who discovered Antarctica.

The data provided by Russkaya serve for compiling weather forecasts and for a scientific analysis of weather-forming processes in the Southern Hemisphere.

Besides, it was in the sea area close to Cape Burks that the ice-bound Soviet diesel motorship Mikhail Somov accomplished its history-making 133-day drift, a feat Antarctic sailors will always remember.

The Academician Fedorov is the Soviet expedition fleet's new flagship of the reinforced ice-breaker type possessing powerful machinery and systems to receive and process satellite information.

Captain Mikhailov had laid an optimal course through the dangerous area to bring his ship within 8 miles of the station, the closest ever.

The Academician Fedorov, its anchors dropped in the fast shore ice, is now unloading freight by helicopter for the new shift of researchers to work at Russkaya station.

Military

Yazov on Military History, New Achievements

AU252115 Warsaw ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI in Polish 22 Feb 88 pp 1, 3

[NOVOSTI article by Dmitriy Yazov, Soviet defense minister: "An Army Born of Great October"]

[Text] The 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy is a great national holiday for the Soviet people. The anniversary is also being celebrated by the peoples of fraternal socialist countries, our friends abroad, and by everyone who has become convinced through personal experience or historical fact that the Soviet Armed Forces are loyal to the ideals of freedom, independence, and friendship between peoples, and are a bulwark of international security and peace.

Seventy years ago, shortly after the triumph of the Great October Revolution, the first army in the history of mankind produced by a victorious proletarian revolution came into existence. International imperialism compelled the young Soviet state to create the Army. International imperialism organized anti-Soviet actions and plots, equipped the White Guard, and initiated direct military intervention against Soviet Russia. It was international imperialism that, as Lenin indicated, "to put it frankly, caused a civil war to break out in our country and bears the responsibility for the fact that it lasted as long as it did..." (Complete Works, Vol 39, p 343)

A regular army based on new principles and capable of engaging in warfare was necessary for the defense of the revolution. A new, socialist army was needed; an army of this kind was established by V. Lenin and the Bolshevik Party.

Decrees concerning the establishment of a Red Army and Navy were passed by the Council of People's Commissars on 28 January and 11 February. They initiated the process whereby the Soviet state's Armed Forces were created, an army that was born of the people itself.

The Armed Forces were the sword of the majority of the people—the workers class, the peasantry, and all progressive, social forces that were committed to the socialist fatherland. Their purpose was not one of engaging in aggression, seizing foreign soil, and conquering other states, but of resisting aggression and defending the achievements of the revolution from any kind of assault.

The fundamentally new sociopolitical character of the Armed Forces born of the Great October Socialist Revolution was reflected in the names they were given by V. I.Lenin: the Workers and Peasants Red Army and the Workers and Peasants Red Navy. The 28 January decree states that: "The Workers and Peasants Red Army will be comprised of the most conscious and organized sections of the working people. Anyone who is ready to devote his energy and life to the defense of the achievements of Great October, Soviet power, and socialism can join the Red Army."

Units of the Red Guard, which had proved themselves in battle during the revolution, formed the secure cornerstone of our Armed Forces. The Bolshevik Party supervised all matters relating to military development and the defense of the Land of the Soviets. In carrying out its work, the party was guided by the Leninist ideals of the defense of the socialist fatherland. The pertinence of the Leninist thesis that a revolution is only worth something if it can defend itself has been confirmed by the experiences of the USSR and the other socialist countries.

The newly created units of the Red Army received their baptism by fire during February 1918. By virtue of extraordinary determination, heroism, and selflessness, they were able to halt the German interventionists advance toward Petrograd at the Narva-Pskov line.

To commemorate this heroic deed and the mass entry of volunteers into the ranks of the Red Army, this great deed accomplished by the working people, who responded to the call to defend the socialist fatherland contained in Lenin's appeal and decree entitled "The Socialist Fatherland is in Danger," has gone down in the history of the Soviet Union as the day on which the Red Army was born. Every year, our country celebrates this day as a nationwide holiday.

The Red Army was strengthened and tempered by the battles that took place during the 3 years of civil war. Under the leadership of the party and with the support of the broad mass of working people it fought an unequal battle against united domestic and foreign counterrevolutionary forces. Performing well in all the tests to which it was put, the Red Army won a decisive victory over the White Guard and foreign interventionists. The commanders and soldiers of the Red Army displayed unprecedented mass heroism in battle. What elicited this was an awareness of how right was the cause of revolution and socialist justice. The following famous heroes of the civil war came from the people: S. S. Vostretsov, G. D. Gaj, V. I. Kividze, F. I. Kotowski, S. G. Lazo, A. J. Parchmienko, V. I. Chapayev, and N. A. Shchors, and many others. In our country they are a symbol of selfless devotion to the party and the people, and unwavering commitment to the duties that stem from being a defender of the socialist fatherland.

The Soviet art of warfare was forged during a struggle against a strong and cunning enemy. Red Army units and formations, which were often poorly equipped and lacked combat experience, successfully defeated White Guard units and imperialist interventionist armies that were armed to the teeth. Expert military skills, and the ability to mobilize people to act and win people over were displayed by military commanders and commissars trained by the party and committed to the revolution such as: V.K. Blyucher, S.M. Budennyy, I.I. Vatsetis, K.J. Voroshilov, A.I. Yegorov, S.S. Kamenev, S.M. Kirov, V.V. Kuybyshev, M.N. Tukhashevskiy, J.F. Fabritsius, and M.B. Frunze.

During these difficult years proletarian solidarity was displayed by our class brothers who defended the achievements of October. Fighting in the ranks of the Red Army were: the First International Rifle Brigade, the Independent International Cavalry Brigade, the First "Red Warsaw" Revolutionary Regiment, and many other international formations. About 250,000 Hungarians, Poles, Serbs, Croats, Czechs, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Austrians, Germans, Finns, Romanians, Mongolians, Koreans, Chinese, and other internationalist soldiers fought in the ranks of the Red Army. Two hundred received what was the Soviet republic's highest decoration at the time: the Order of the Red Banner.

In our country the names Michaj Buzor, Kojcze Kasabov, Bela Kun, Franz Mondre, Karol Swierczewski, and Slawojar Czastiek [names as published] are widely known and remembered. Like other soldiers and internationalists, they personified the ideal of the revolutionary soldier, who, in Lenin's words, had the honor of taking up arms to defend lofty ideals and realize internationalist friendship between peoples in practice.

The international workers class and working people in many capitalist countries provided great assistance for the defense of the achievements of Great October by their determined action in the "Hands Off Soviet Russia" campaign. Although the Soviet republic found itself in a difficult position because of foreign armed intervention, it expressed solidarity with the revolution that took place in Germany in 1918-19 and with the struggle waged by the Bavarian Soviet Republic, and it provided active military and diplomatic assistance to the Hungarian Soviet Republic proclaimed in March 1919. International assistance and the support of the Land of the Soviets was of decisive significance for the Mongolian people and the creation and strengthening of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Army.

World imperialism suffered a military and political defeat in the first assault on the Soviet state. Our Armed Forces emerged from this struggle victorious. During the period between the wars they continued to develop together with the whole country. The Armed Forces technical supply standards rose with industrialization, collectivization, and the cultural revolution and their organizational structure was improved.

The sociopolitical and internationalist unity of the Armed Forces' was strengthened. Training in the Army and the Navy improved, and the level of combat readiness increased.

The need to strengthen the Red Army and Navy was dictated by the aggressive preparations of imperialism, which was developing new plans to destroy the first socialist state. International reactionary forces tried to sound out the Red Army's level of combat readiness on many occasions. In 1929 Chinese militarists provoked an armed conflict on the Eastern Chinese Railway Line and received the reply that they deserved. In 1938 a Japanese military clique invaded Soviet territory in the Far East, near Lake Khasan. The Red Army defeated the aggressor's forces in a series of bloody battles. In 1939 Soviet forces discharged their internationalist duty and, together with Mongolian forces, they routed Japanese aggressors who invaded Mongolian territory near Halhin Gol.

Fascist and militarist forces received the support of international reactionary imperialism and stepped up their preparations for aggression. They continually increased tension wherever possible to bring about a new world war. The Soviet Union did all it could to prevent this from happening.

However, the USSR's proposals concerning the creation of a system of collective security did not meet with understanding on the part of the Western powers. So, they embarked on a path of "appeasing" the fascist aggressors to make them enter into a direct conflict with socialism at whatever price.

In view of this, the Soviet Union was compelled to sign the nonaggression pact proposed by Germany. It was thus able to prevent the formation of a united anti-Soviet front by imperialist forces, to delay the inevitable fascist assault, and to use the available time to make better preparations to fight off an invasion.

Unfortunately, we had too little time to make these preparations. We did not manage to accomplish all that we had planned. The effects of the losses suffered by the military cadres as a result of the repressions that occurred before the war also became apparent. The treacherous attack launched by Nazi Germany put an end to peace for the Soviet people. Socialism's vitality, our nation's spirit, and the nation's unity and ability to afford resistance were put to the test for 1,418 long days and nights. We passed the test with distinction.

The whole country sought to defend the socialist fatherland. It formed one military camp and subordinated its life to the realization of the slogan: "Everything for the front, everything for victory." The fight was led by the Leninist Communist Party, just as it had been during the civil war years. It became a militant party. The communists were in the front line, in the forefront of the battle against fascism, and they strengthened cohesion in the Army's ranks, were the first to go into battle and led their troops to fight for the fatherland. The Great Patriotic War demonstrated once again that the main, decisive source of the Armed Forces' military strength resides in the leadership of the party and that it had guaranteed all their victories. With the united support of workers on the home front and that of the entire nation, the Soviet Armed Forces were able to withstand the pressure exerted by the Nazi war machine, which was served by the combined economic and scientific and technical capacity of Hitler's Germany and occupied Europe; they halted the enemy at the gates of Moscow, on the banks of the Volga, and in the Caucasian foothills, and later routed the occupying forces from Soviet territory.

Soviet soldiers performed their noble liberation mission for more than a year and fought bloody battles to liberate many European and Asian states from the yoke that had been imposed on them by the occupying forces. More than a million Soviet soldiers gave up their lives in the struggle to liberate the enslaved peoples.

Struggles against fascist invasion forces were also waged selflessly by members of military units and partisan units in Yugoslavia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, by patriots in Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, and Hungary, and by members of the resistance movement and the fascist underground. Communists—loyal sons of their peoples and passionate internationalists—were in the front line of the liberation struggle. A great contribution to victory in World War II was made by the peoples and armies of the United States, Great Britain, France, China, and other states belonging to the anti-Nazi coalition.

At the same time, historically, the truth is that the Soviet Union made a decisive contribution to the victory over fascism and militarism. The battles waged on the Soviet-German front were unprecedented in terms of their scale and the hardship they entailed. Our armies destroyed, captured, or crushed the main invasion forces—more than 500 divisions—and made the enemy suffer two-thirds of its losses and effected a decisive turning-point in the course of World War II that determined its later course.

The Great Patriotic War demonstrated the high standard of morale and combat skills in our Armed Forces and the monolithic unity among our troops—the loyal sons of our multinational fatherland. Victory was obtained thanks to the selfless work of the Soviet people, through the unprecedented military feat accomplished by the men at the front—the soldiers and sailors, the officers, generals and admirals, marshalls, and all the defenders of the socialist fatherland. The names of the following have been entered into the military chronicle of the Soviet Armed Forces in gold letters: Private A. Matrosov, Junior Sergeant J. Smirnov, Captain N. Gastello, General D. Karbyshev and other heroes. We are justly proud of our famous Soviet commanders, including: G.K. Zhukov, K.K. Rokossovskiy, A.M. Wasilewski, I.S. Koniev, I.K. Bagramian, N.F. Vatutin, L.A. Govorov, A.I. Yeremenko, R.I. Malinowski, K.A. Meretskov, I.Y. Petrov, F.I. Tolbukhin, I.D. Chernyakovskiy, and others.

With the defeat of German fascism and Japanese militarism, the prospect of a just and lasting peace opened up for mankind. This was not what reactionary imperialism had in mind, however. Soon after the end of World War II, imperialism once again intensified the arms race, the nuclear arms race above all, and began to create an aggressive political-military bloc. Military bases began to be built around the Soviet Union and the other socialist states, and military groupings and forces in various parts of the world began to be increased. To justify the arms race and ideological preparations for war, imperialism organized and conducted anti-Soviet and antisocialist propaganda based on stereotypes that create a "hostile image" of us and confrontational dogmas, and it has been doing so to this day.

The growing threat of war posed by imperialism compelled socialism and the Soviet Union to take various steps in response. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the elimination of the United States' monopoly on nuclear weapons for the future of socialism and that of the entire world. Strategic rocket forces were established in the Soviet Armed Forces, and the Navy received submarines equipped with missiles. Significant changes occurred in all branches of the Armed Forces. Combat experience and the demands created by military science made it necessary to improve the combat and political training given to soldiers.

Many problems connected with defending the achievements of socialism assumed an internationalist character. They were examined and solved jointly in a manner agreed by the states belonging to the socialist community. A qualitatively new stage in fraternal cooperation was begun in 1955 with the formation of the defensive Warsaw Pact in response to the creation of the NATO bloc.

A vital and developing science dealing with the defense of the socialist fatherland is used creatively by the states belonging to the socialist community in solving problems connected with national defense, guaranteeing collective security, and the defense of peace and socialism's achievements.

The attainment of strategic and military parity between the USSR and the United States, and between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, was a historic achievement for socialism. Viewing parity as a decisive element in preventing the outbreak of war, the fraternal socialist countries expressed support for a radical reduction in the military capacities of both sides to a level that would be sufficient for defense purposes, alongside the complete elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. The socialist states declared this publicly in the document on the Warsaw Pact military doctrine that was approved unanimously at the Berlin meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Advisory Committee held in May 1987.

Just like that of every Warsaw Pact country, the military doctrine of the Soviet Union is a doctrine of defense, with the task of preventing nuclear and conventional war. This clearly reflects the fraternal parties' and states' responsible approach toward the problem of security in the modern world, an approach based on the new political thinking. The countries of the Warsaw Pact are in favor of finally eliminating war from the life of man, solving all thorny international issues solely by peaceful means and political methods, and undertaking radical steps toward disarmament.

At the United Nations, the socialist countries have presented a joint concept of a universal system of international security. The signing of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles was an important step along the road to disarmament. This is the joint success of the socialist countries' coordinated foreign policy. Exhaustive work is under way on a treaty to reduce U.S. and USSR strategic offensive weapons by half, which should take place while keeping antimissile defense within the limits of the 1972 agreement, and to eliminate chemical weapons. The Warsaw Pact states are in favor of a radical, bilateral reduction of conventional forces and armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, and of a complete halt to nuclear tests. They have also put forth numerous peace initiatives. Of enormous significance is Comrade M.S. Gorbachev's 9 February 1968 statement which presented constructive methods of achieving a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The new political thinking, which is gradually overcoming the opposition of reactionary forces, is paving its way in international relations. The Washington agreements confirm this. Nevertheless, there is much evidence that influential political circles in the West do not wish to abandon their old stereotypes and military programs, and are sowing distrust and suspicion vis-a-vis the goals and intentions of the socialist countries. They are even trying to present the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles as a USSR "ploy" aimed at weakening the Eastern bloc, and are launching NATO arms programs to "fill" an alleged "gap" in NATO's defense created by the elimination of these two categories of nuclear missiles. They also talk about the Warsaw Pact's superiority over NATO concerning particular kinds of weapons, but omit to say that it is NATO that possesses superiority in many respects and that generally there is a balance between these two military blocs in Europe.

They are presenting appeals to force through the "Star Wars" program.

Of course, the Soviet Union and its allies cannot ignore these dangerous trends. They have not and will never ignore their own security. That is the explanation for their approach toward preserving the balance of forces. The Warsaw Pact states are ready to reduce those weapons in which they have superiority. Similarly, the NATO states should carry out reductions where the scales of equilibrium tip in their favor.

Everything the socialist countries are doing in the sphere of defense is described as the need to ensure peaceful conditions for creative activity by fraternal peoples. M.S. Gorbachev said in his report during the gala session marking the 70th anniversary of Great October: "As long as there is a danger of war, and social retaliation remains a tool of Western strategy and militaristic programs, we too will do everything necessary to maintain our defense potential at a level that excludes imperialism's military superiority over socialism." The Soviet Armed Forces are undergoing restructuring, just like our whole country. At present they are concentrating on achieving practical results—on raising their combat readiness and improving the quality of military exercises. There is work aimed at strengthening military discipline and improving the standard of living of soldiers and their families.

One of the chief paths of the restructuring is a universal animation of the human factor. In relation to the Armed Forces, this means increasing the level of responsibility; providing professional training for and imposing higher demands on military and political cadres and all soldiers; ensuring democratic life in the Army and Navy; developing initiative and independence; and providing healthy, objective criticism and self-criticism. Socialist competition is occurring in the Army and Navy, providing real encouragement for increased human energy. In this jubilee year, this competition bears the slogan: "Dedicated work in the Army, exemplary service, and superior discipline are our contribution to the cause of defending the fatherland."

The further enhancement of restructuring and the practical implementation of everything that was planned in accordance with the its requirements is the highest task. The efforts of all Communists in the Army and Navy are concentrated on performing this task during the preparations for the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

The USSR Armed Forces are welcoming their jubilee with new achievements in military training and service. The Soviet soldier's day is full of examples of dedication, manliness, and heroism; of faithfulness toward the combat traditions of previous generations and toward the duty of patriotism and internationalism. Comprehensive cooperation with the allied armies is developing and enhancing all the time. Uniform views about building and preparing Armed Forces and about raising and training soldiers are being worked out. The "Alliance," "Brotherhood-in Arms," "Shield," and other joint exercises play an important role in solving the tasks facing the armies of the socialist community. During these exercises, joint action is perfected and, the traditions of internationalism developed, and combat brotherhood and friendship are strengthened.

The joint preparation of military cadres and units in field camps, training centers, and exercise areas provides the fraternal armies with major experience. Competitions between soldiers with various combat skills are successful. A lot of attention is being devoted to investigating and using the experience of soldiers, and cooperation in the sphere of ideological work is expanding.

The Soviet Armed Forces are carrying their glorious battle standards high. They have been faithfully serving their people, the fatherland, and the cause of Great October for 7 decades. They are sensitively standing guard over peace and socialism in one, closed combat rank with the armies of the socialist community.

Shcherbitskiy, Solovyev Mark Army Anniversary

LD222115 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1812 GMT 22 Feb 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Festive meetings of representatives of the working people and servicemen of the Soviet Army devoted to the 70th anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces were held in Leningrad and in the capitals of union republics. Taking part were Comrade Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, and Comrade Solovyev, candidate member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad obkom.

Times 'Dictate' Different Military Approaches

LD191326 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0644 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, 19 Feb (TASS)—The establishment of the Soviet Armed Forces, the 70th anniversary of which is marked this year as a nationwide holiday, is tied to the birth of the world's first state of workers and peasants. In an article produced for TASS, Marshal of the Soviet Union Semen Kurkotkin stresses that from the very first days the young Red Army was subjected to the severest test: The internal counterrevolution was desperately resisting and the onslaught of the intervention was stepped up. It came through the test, because it was defending the right cause, because it was an army of a new type, an army of the people, defending first and foremost the interests of the working person.

Being warlike is alien to the peoples of the multinational Soviet Union, but the international situation has obliged them to keep their powder dry.

The war unleashed by Hitler's fascism of 1941-1945 was a severe test for the Soviet people and their armed forces. In the first 3 years the Soviet Army fought essentially one-to-one against the main forces of fascist Germany and its satellites. From 190 to 270 enemy divisions were operational simultaneously on the Soviet-German front. It was drastically different from other fronts in scale and in the intensity of the armed struggle. In 1,418 days, on a front from 3,000 to 6,200 km long, the Soviet Army destroyed 607 enemy divisions, securing the utter defeat of the agressor.

In the development of the Soviet Union's Armed Forces, never has any more been done than what was required for reliable military defense. It lead neither the creation of atomic weapons, nor the mastering of other kinds of mass destruction weapons. The USSR opposes the use of space for military purposes. If we are obliged today to possess the kind of armed forces that we have, this is not through subjective will, but through the need to offer a countervailing force.

The new times, however, dictate different approaches in the struggle to maintain a stable peace. The Soviet Union counters the stereotypes and dogmas of the past with the concept of a nuclear-free, single, interdependent peace. Today we can already see how the new ideas incorporated in the Soviet concept of a nuclear-free world are making headway, albeit with difficulty. As early as November 1985, at the first Soviet-U.S. summit meeting, the USSR and United States undertook an obligation to prevent an arms race in space and to stop it on earth, to limit and reduce nuclear weapons, and to strengthen strategic stability. Then came Reykjavik, where the Soviet side submitted a whole package of major measures enabling this obligation to be implemented.

Finally, there was the truly historic summit meeting in Washington, the main outcome of which was the signing of the treaty scrapping two classes of nuclear missile, the intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. In itself the treaty demonstrated to the whole world the possibility of turning away from the arms race to disarmament.

The Soviet Union does not intend to attack anyone. This approach accords with the very nature of socialism. The Soviet Armed Forces, therefore, while maintaining their defensive concept, are marking their 70th anniversary in the hope that the dialogue between the USSR and the United States aimed at deepening trust and mutual understanding between the peoples and strengthening universal peace will be constructive and will yield the long-awaited fruit.

Sergeyev Delivers DOSAAF Congress Report

PM191529 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Feb 88 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "For the Might of the Homeland. The 10th All-Union DOSAAF Congress"]

[Text] DOSAAF is making a fitting contribution to strengthening the defense might of the socialist homeland. Hundreds of millions of Soviet people have been through the school of courage, valor, and patriotism represented by DOSAAF, the reliable assistant and reserve of the Armed Forces.

An important event has occurred in the life of the defense society—the 10th All-Union USSR DOSAAF Congress opened on 15 February in the Grand Kremlin Palace.

The presidium comprised comrades M.S. Solomentsev, P.N. Demichev, D.T. Yazov, A.I. Lukyanov, G.P. Razumovskiy, and I.V. Kapitonov, leaders of ministries and departments, military commanders, representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations, and also leaders of delegations from defense sports societies in a number of socialist and developing countries.

Those present applauded the CPSU Central Committee greetings message to the 10th All-Union DOSAAF Congress which was read out by CPSU Central Committee Secretary A.I. Lukyanov.

The report "Account of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee's Work and the Defense Society's Tasks in Light of the 27th CPSU Congress Decisions" was delivered by Admiral of the Fleet G.M. Yegorov, USSR DOSAAF Central Committee chairman.

The 10th All-Union DOSAAF Congress, he said, is starting its work in an atmosphere where the party and the Soviet people are involved in restructuring all spheres of society's life and in the revolutionary renewal of the socialist homeland. It is significant also that the congress is taking place in the atmosphere of the preparations that are under way for the 19th All-Union Party Conference and on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces.

There is every justification for saying that DOSAAF has become a nationwide organization and has gained new ground in the main areas of its activity. This was possible because of the Communist Party's constant attention to the deeds and preoccupations of the defense society and local party and soviet bodies' day-to-day assistance for its organizations.

But in the period under review the defense society's potential has by no means been exploited everywhere. As a consequence, the tasks set forth by the Ninth All-Union DOSAAF Congress have not been fully implemented, and the congress must be given a frank account of this. The decisions on restructuring mass defense work in a number of DOSAAF republic, kray, and oblast organizations adopted by the fifth and sixth plenums of the DOSAAF Central Committee have not yet borne tangible fruit. There are continuing contradictions between the democratic, independent nature of society and imperfect forms of work, and between activists' desire for new approaches and the stagnant methods of activity in many organizations.

Under current conditions we cannot be satisfied with the forms and methods of work used by defense collectives yesterday. It is a matter of radically reforming the USSR DOSAAF and making qualitative changes that enable Soviet people to play an even more active part in strengthening our state's defense capability.

In the period under review it was not possible to completely break the tendency to conceal work shortcomings with figures characterizing the growth of DOSAAF membership. Today it is necessary to frankly state that many DOSAAF primary organizations are operating poorly and are failing to carry out their regulation duties.

All this does not mean mass defense work is a total fiasco. The multifaceted work and the ever increasing tasks of the defense society are the platform that makes it possible to speak today of the practical restructuring of the USSR DOSAAF's activity.

Restructuring in the defense society means bringing DOSAAF organizations out of a state of inertia and stagnation and resolutely increasing our contribution to strengthening the country's defense capability and preparing working people for the defense of the socialist homeland and developing creative principles in our public organization.

Restructuring is a matter of persistently combatting formal, hackneyed, and dogmatic elements in the military-patriotic and international education of working people and young people. Primary organizations must put initiative and independent action in their place. A primary organization has the right, with the overall tasks in mind, to select from the arsenals of forms and methods those which it considers the most effective. It is granted this right.

Restructuring means resolutely enhancing the practical military thrust of the activity of DOSAAF training organizations and assessing the work of the school, the club as a whole, and the individual teacher and production training expert not in terms of average indicators, points, and percentages but in terms of the level of training of every student and his readiness to conscientiously serve the homeland.

Restructuring means profound changes in the work of technical sports clubs and activity groups whose creation has been unjustifiably delayed by all manner of restrictions and by the stifling of initiative. Clubs must be strongpoints of mass defense work.

Restructuring means the effective use of economic accountability in the defense society, the introduction of self-capitalization and self-financing, an all-round increase in innovation and socialist enterprise, economies and the prudent use of financial and material resources, and a vigorous struggle against violators of socialist morals.

Restructuring means profound changes in the work of elected bodies of the USSR DOSAAF from top to bottom. It is necessary to learn to act in an atmosphere of complete glasnost. Glasnost for all is a means of correcting individual mistakes in work and increasing cadres' responsibility.

The most crucial and, perhaps, the most difficult stage of restructuring—in the country as a whole and in the defense society—has arrived: the stage of the practical introduction of ideas and the fusing of the concept with the USSR DOSAAF's plans and tasks. To successfully solve this task it is important to involve the broad masses of DOSAAF members in the work, above all the aktiv—members of committees, auditing commissions, councils of clubs and sports federations, pedagogical councils, and other public formations.

The USSR DOSAAF Central Committee informs delegates that in accordance with the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and demands of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decisions, a number of measures have been adopted to improve work on enhancing the quality of the training of specialists for the Army and Navy.

The organizational structure of DOSAAF training organizations has been improved. In conjunction with the USSR Defense Ministry, training programs in DOSAAF schools and aviation organizations have been revised and the training of draftees in a number of new specialties and on more modern equipment is being assimilated. Field facilities and training materials at most schools make it possible, in the main, to conduct modern training sessions.

Since the Ninth All-Union DOSAAF Congress there have been definite changes in the defense society's life and activity. In this connection there is a need for changes to parts of the USSR DOSAAF Statutes and additions to further deepen democracy, develop public initiative, widen the rights and obligations of DOSAAF members and the defense society's organizations, give defense collectives greater indepoendence, and ensure extensive glasnost in their work.

The USSR DOSAAF Central Committee, reporting on the results of its work since the Ninth All-Union DOSAAF Congress, is well aware of the prevailing situation in the defense society. We must deal with all the tasks facing us and are obliged to do all we can to ensure that the life of every DOSAAF primary, training, and sports organization is filled with intensive creative work.

Looking ahead to the 19th All-Union Party Conference, the defense society will continue to make a fitting contribution to strengthening the socialist homeland's economic and defense might, Admiral of the Fleet G.M. Yegorov said in conclusion. The millions of members of the defense society see this as their patriotic duty and lofty mission!

The report of the USSR DOSAAF Central Auditing Commission was delivered by its chairman A.V. Khankov.

Then the discussion of the reports began.